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Lifford - Strabane situation

The towns of Lifford in Co. Donegal and Strabane in Co. Tyrone face each other across the River Foyle. The bridge over the river is the dividing line between the two towns and the Border divides the bridge. The distance between the two towns is under half a mile.

The strength of the Garda Síochána in Lifford is 19 viz. 3 Sergeants and 16 Gardaí. The figures include an additional 1 Sergeant and 5 Gardaí over normal strength. No very recent incidents on the Border in the Lifford/Strabane area were reported by the Gardaí. However, at this Border point these have been a number of serious incidents in one of which (in November 1971) a woman was killed when shots were fired at the British Army from the Co. Donegal side of the Border. The Gardaí investigated the incident but no witnesses came forward to identify those responsible. A number of persons who have been resident in the Lifford area for some time past are known to the Gardaí to be engaged in subversive activities and some of these are natives of Strabane. ^{However,} while this is not only known to the Gardaí but is common knowledge, it is not provable in Court - in general, the Gardaí have not been able to get admissible evidence of unlawful activity by these people though they have had a few successful prosecutions for possession of firearms, etc. Some time ago a number of them left the area and their present whereabouts are unknown.

Garda and Army patrols are paying particular attention to activities along the Border in the vicinity of Lifford. It is one of the Border points that they recognise as being particularly "sensitive".

Supplementary NoteLifford-Strabane situation

About $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south of Strabane on the Northern side of the Border there is the village of Clady. This is a "no-go" area where neither the RUC nor the British Army operate. It is well-known that Clady is also a "spring-board" for attacks by the IRA on Strabane and other places in Co. Tyrone.

The Gardaí who have been very active on the Lifford side believe that those responsible for many attacks in the North in this Border area operate from Clady.