

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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| <b>Reference Code:</b>    | 2007/116/778                                                                                                             |
| <b>Creation Date(s):</b>  | 21 December 1977                                                                                                         |
| <b>Extent and medium:</b> | 2 pages                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Creator(s):</b>        | Department of the Taoiseach                                                                                              |
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Ein-fhreagra ar an litir seo, is mar seo choir e stiuradh:—

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An Rúnaí,  
Roinn an Taoisigh.

I am directed by the Minister for Justice to refer to Mr. Nally's minute (S. 20330) of 29th November and enclosures.

The position in so far as the Department of Justice is concerned is that contacts at official level have been operating in the security area for some years and there is ongoing police contact between the Garda Síochána and the R.U.C. on operational security along the Border. (The attached note details the position as regards the Garda - R.U.C. activities). Meetings have taken place at official level (in which this Department has participated) in relation to security co-operation. The meetings were organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs. Matters discussed included control of explosives and detonators, check-points on the Border, legislation, firearms controls, exchanges of information on "finds" of explosives etc.

There have been informal contacts on a limited basis between staff of the Prisons Division of the Department and their counterparts in the North. These related to welfare and probation matters and to industries in prisons. Other informal contacts have operated from time to time on an ad hoc basis in relation to law reform, Public Record Office etc.

*J. Bolwell*  
2/ Nollaig, 1977.

*R. Murray*  
50/112

1. Following talks between the Minister for Justice and the British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland held at Baldonnel on 18th September, 1974. Garda RUC panels were set up to consider the following matters:

- (1) Cross Border Advance Planning and Operations
- (2) Cross Broder Communications
- (3) Exchange of Information concerning Ballistics, Explosives etc.
- (4) Detection of sources of supply of Arms, Ammunition and Explosives.

2. The first panel deals with co-operation in the prevention of terrorist incidents in Border areas, joint operations, the movement of terrorists, exchanges of information, the standardisation of maps used by the Gardai and the R.U.C., cross-border roads, derelict houses, the use of motor vehicles for terrorist activities, the hi-jacking of trains, smuggling and the transport of legal explosives.

This panel meets on a monthly basis on two levels, headquarters level to deal with advance planning and co-ordination and local level to deal with operations on the ground.

3. The communications group deals with all aspects of communications between the two police forces. A wide range of radio and direct telephone links is now in existence providing for secure and rapid communication between the Gardai and the R.U.C. on a 24 hour basis. Both the Gardai and the R.U.C. are satisfied that these links are now totally adequate to meet the needs of the situation.

4. The remaining two panels deal with firearms and explosives problems. There is a regular exchange of information in relation to finds of arms ammunition and explosives and close co-operation in the control of explosives and detonators.