

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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#### INSTRUCTIONS TO THE RUC

Members of the RUC are instructed in the RUC Code not to leave the place of duty to which they have been ordered. In this sense and in respect of other orders relating to specific duties, they have instructions which limit their duty activities to the Northern Ireland jurisdiction, unless expressly instructed otherwise by a proper higher authority. This last condition allows for the fact that members of the RUC frequently carry out duties quite properly in the Republic with the agreement of the Garda; security cooperation is of course based on such activities. It also allows for the fact that members of the RUC (unlike the Armed Forces) are not prohibited from visiting the Republic off-duty. The position is complex, which is no doubt why the Chief Constable's statement was not categoric on the point. Any discrepancy between what we and the RUC have said is more apparent than real.

#### WHY THE GARDA WERE NOT TOLD ON 12 DECEMBER 1982

Since the incursion was not authorised by any proper authority, it is not possible to say why the Garda were not told of it, before, during or after. It can be said that senior officers in the RUC were not aware of it until quite some time after the event, since it had been covered up. It is a matter for further enquiry.

In a more general sense, the RUC were indeed in close continual contact with the Garda during the latter part of 1982, in relation to the higher level of violence mentioned by the Chief Constable. It is in that context a matter of regret to us that there should have been no contact between the two forces over the crossing of the border on 12 December 1982. That can only be explained by the urgency of the matter (in the eyes of those who apparently took the decision), and the fact that contact had to be made, if at all, very urgently and at the appropriate level.

#### OTHER SIMILAR INCIDENTS

Neither we nor the RUC are aware of any other occasions on which members of the RUC (or the Army, including the UDR) have made unauthorised visits of this kind to the Republic.

/ASSURANCE

## ASSURANCE FOR THE FUTURE

Given the policy outlined above, the Irish authorities may be assured that (while accidents do happen) no members of the security forces will cross the border in an operational role, except with the agreement of the Garda. We would however take issue with the Irish authorities' belief that the Chief Constable's statement could be construed as showing that he regarded the crossing on 12 December 1982 as legitimate.

## PREJUDGEMENT OF INVESTIGATION

The Chief Constable was concerned to stress that, when enquiries are being made following a crime, it is proper that those likely to offer statements should be reminded of the need to protect operational methods and sources of information. This refers to the story allegedly made up to explain the events immediately leading up to the shooting, which is an internal matter now due for investigation. As a statement of the Chief Constable's view at this stage, it hardly seems to prejudge the enquiry.

10 April 1984