



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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7 April 1987

S19629

Mr. E. O Tuathail
Assistant Secretary
Department of Foreign Affairs

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Dear Eamon

Gerry Corr asked me recently if we could obtain the figures which the Northern Ireland Housing Executive used recently when they claimed that over 1,000 people had been driven out of their homes by intimidation in 1986/87. I enclose a chart, drawn up by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which reports on a weekly basis the number of requests received by the NIHE for housing transfers on the grounds of intimidation claimed by those making the request. The police cannot confirm that in each and every case where a move was requested that intimidation did occur but they believe that the vast majority of requests were genuine. A good number of these affected policemen and particularly part-time policemen who were the victims of considerable intimidation by loyalists during the last year.

The British side have informed us that they recently held a meeting, at which were present representatives of the police, of the Department of the Environment and of the NIHE which was designed to review how they had coped with the problem last year and how they might cope with similar problems were they to occur this year.

During the course of that meeting it emerged that the area most affected by the intimidation of people in their homes was Lisburn. 170 families there requested the NIHE to move them to more secure areas. 140 of those families were rehoused and it is believed that the majority of them were nationalists.

Interestingly, the next most difficult area was North Belfast where over 50 requests for rehousing were received, the vast majority of which were from loyalists intimidated in July/August last year. The majority of these requests were also met.

In addition to intimidation of people in their homes many other instances of intimidation were reported to the police. Some of these involved contractors or sub-contractors engaged in removing graffiti. This applied in both loyalist and republican areas. In some instances sub-contractors were so intimidated that they themselves sought to give the work

involved in repairing houses from which persons were intimidated, or in removing graffiti, to persons who were themselves either paramilitaries or closely connected with paramilitaries.

We have in the past conveyed to the Department figures for the numbers of charges laid against persons who are believed to have been guilty of intimidation and for the progress of such cases in the Courts. At the meeting referred to above the RUC said that the greatest factors hindering the bringing of successful charges in cases of intimidation was the subsequent intimidation of witnesses.

The British side concluded that on the whole they and the NIHE were able to deal with intimidation in so far as they were able to provide alternative housing in the vast majority of cases where they believed intimidation of persons in their homes had occurred and where those persons had requested rehousing on the grounds of intimidation. This had caused strains on the housing lists as many of those rehoused would not have been eligible for rehousing but for the reported intimidation. Nonetheless, it was possible in the main to deal with the situation and the authorities would hope that they can deal with any similar situation which might arise in the future.

Yours sincerely



Daithi O Ceallaigh

c.c. Mr. G. Corr

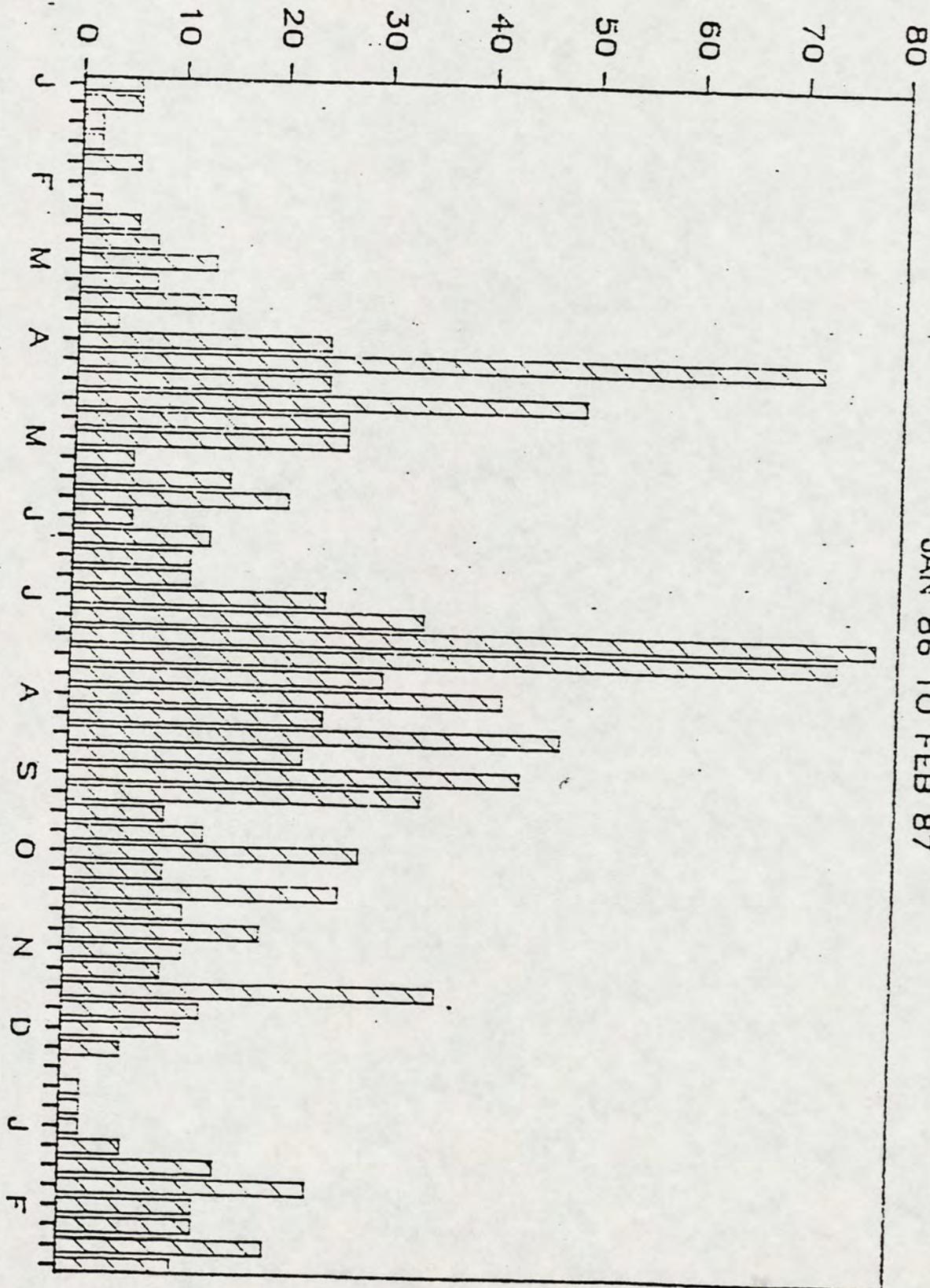
P.S. Since writing the above we have learned that the Annual Report of the RUC Chief Constable for 1986, which will be laid in the House of Commons tomorrow, states that 120 RUC families had to move home on a permanent basis in 1986 as a result of intimidation in their houses.

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ANNEX B

to note for the record
dated 31 March 1987

CLAIMED INTIMIDATION LEVELS
JAN 86 TO FEB 87



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