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NORTHERN IRELAND Information Service

4 February 1988

MINISTER GIVES DETAILS OF RISE IN PUNISHMENT ATTACKS

In reply today to a written Question from Mr John Hume MP (Foyle) the Rt Hon John Stanley MP, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, gave the following statistics regarding punishment attacks in the Province.

Mr Stanley's answer was as follows:-

PUNISHMENT ATTACKS

YEAR	LOYALIST (Paramilitary Organisations believed to be responsible)	REPUBLICAN	TOTAL
1975	50	139	189
1976	36	62	98
1977	28	98	126
1978	17	50	67
1979	25	51	76
1980	26	51	77
1981	14	66	80
1982	25	64	89
1983	10	24	34
1984	7	63	70
1985	15	47	62
1986	36	46	82
1987	94	90	184

AREAS OF PUNISHMENT ATTACKS

Details of the areas where these attacks took place are not readily available for earlier years but, since 1983, the following information is available:-

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Greater Belfast	24	53	49	66	158
Other Areas	10	17	13	16	26

NATURE OF PUNISHMENT ATTACKS

Details of the nature of these attacks, broken down between punishment shootings and punishment assaults, are available from 1982 and are as follows:-

PUNISHMENT SHOOTINGS (See Note 1)

PUNISHMENT ASSAULTS (See Note 2)

YEAR	<u>PUNISHMENT SHOOTINGS (See Note 1)</u>			<u>PUNISHMENT ASSAULTS (See Note 2)</u>		
	LOYALIST	REPUBLICAN	TOTAL	LOYALIST	REPUBLICAN	TOTAL
(Paramilitary Organisations believed to be responsible)						
1982	22	58	80	3	6	9
1983	9	22	31	1	2	3
1984	6	20	26	1	43	44
1985	11	21	32	4	26	30
1986	24	17	41	12	29	41
1987	67	57	124	27	33	60

Note 1: Punishment shootings are primarily kneecappings.

Note 2: Punishment assaults are primarily with sticks, metal bars, breeze blocks and electric drills.