

22nd

Having held a Post Mortem on the two by-elections, it is clear that the only issues raised were law and order and the replacement of the U.S.C. If the political climate is not to go completely to the right with, probably, further trouble in the streets, much greater effort will have to be made to re-establish confidence on these two matters.

Law and order - This can only be improved on the basis of quick and firm action (especially in terms of numbers of arrests) against troublemakers. It is to be hoped that never again will the Army have to submit to such treatment, as they received on the first Ballymurphy night, without taking counter-action. It is also hoped that there will be no further reports (though one accepts that most are untrue) of refusals by soldiers to enter certain streets in Belfast to investigate alleged crimes. This, I accept, is the R.U.C's job and they have orders to do it but it is often alleged that the Army says in reply to a complaint "we can't go there" which gives a disastrous impression.

At Stormont consideration is being given to means of speeding up the procedure for dealing with those arrested and bringing them to Court quickly. Efforts are also being made to increase the number of R.U.C. available.

U.S.C. stand-down. The only way to allay concern over this is to build up confidence in the U.D.R. as quickly as possible. This is sadly lacking at present and indeed is deteriorating rather than improving. The best way to get this confidence is to put out some road checks in border and rural areas. These need to be done for a period and it is necessary, if confidence is to be built up, that these checks should be seen to be fully effective - i.e., the road should be completely closed for short periods by blocking with vehicles, knife rests, etc. It does not make for confidence if, when a vehicle fails to stop, its number is simply taken. The

effectiveness of the old 'B' Special road checks was that they knew pretty well who should be on the move in the area and the presence of strangers could be investigated. These road checks should be regarded as vital for the restoration of confidence.

It is also essential that some members of the U.D.R. should be given permission to keep their arms at home - the fact that, as far as is known, this has not yet been permitted is helping to spread the belief that there is really no intention of allowing it. This is simply a question of the ex-U.S.C. members feeling that they are not trusted.

There are also a number of minor complaints affecting individuals or individual areas, all of which detract from confidence in the U.D.R.

These are:

*N guarded how. by 5th
2 x 6 at in rifles*

1. Cappagh Reservoir in a very Republican area is being guarded by 5 U.D.R. with 3 rifles and little ammunition.
2. Coolkeeragh Power Station was unguarded for the week 5-11 April due to lack of numbers. If this is true, could there not have been U.S.C.? *9-11 about guarded by 5th in 1st week.*
3. U.D.R. men from Dungannon are guarding KP's in Cos. Antrim and Tyrone. Duty is from 7.30 p.m. to 7.30 a.m. twice per week - this is felt to be heavy, but more important, it is felt that this leaves Dungannon unguarded. *N 10 beds in Dungannon. want to use d men. 200 sp. in D. any 1 night full etc.*
4. It is said that [redacted] (Armagh) has been accepted as a Company Commander by the authorities in Northern Ireland but not in London.
5. It is alleged that [redacted] is not acceptable as a referee, presumably because he is prominent in the Orange Order - If people like [redacted], who have both served in the British Army in war, are to be suspect, there is bound to be a lack of confidence.

*only x 4
one. h
out of c.
R moving
town.
2 weeks
21st
London*

*Bully
enough*

6. In the South Londonderry area, a man by the name of [redacted] [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], has been accepted. [redacted] is supposed to have been in the Colour Party at the Easter Parade at the Loup - if so, there is no doubt where his sympathies lie.

None in UDR

7. It is also said here that an allegedly well-known Republican, McCallion, now living in Cookstown but formerly of Moneymore has been accepted.

NV ~ UDR

8. Some of those accepted to the U.D.R. give unfortunate answers to the Press, etc. The type of question being "What would you do if there was an invasion across the Border?" The answers do not produce confidence. There were some good examples of this in the Irish Times of last Tuesday, 14th April.

R by brief R's.

Surely this question might be asked before they are accepted?

9. The Company area of which [redacted] is Company Commander designate embraces three U.S.C. districts which formerly raised 600 'B' Specials; there will now be approximately 100 U.D.R. Is this sufficient?

*✓
suit for
mud holes.*

This is a list of minor allegations, but they are symptomatic of the general unease, particularly of those who live in country districts. Until they are convinced that the U.D.R. is as effective as the U.S.C., there will continue to be agitation and trouble.

[redacted] - Co. Cmdr @ Kesh. [redacted] & [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]

6) Dungan Rec. [redacted] - for a [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]