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" CHILDREN IN CONFLICT "

A STUDY CARRIED OUT INTO THE
PROBLEMS OF HOOLIGANISM IN LONDONDERRY

HQ 8 Infantry Brigade
15 July 1974

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"CHILDREN IN CONFLICT"

TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

1. In the "Battle of the Bogside" in 1969 rioting crowds of mainly young people fought the RUC to a stand still, using stones and petrol bombs. Since that date young people and children West of the River Foyle have used stoning and bottling as a normal method of defying authority and protesting.
2. Due to the length of the current campaign, everyone over five years of age has grown up in this atmosphere of hooliganism and it is by no means unusual to find even younger children throwing stones at SF. If soldiers or police are not in sight as targets, young people have been known to turn on ordinary civilians instead.
3. Stone throwing has become a natural method of protest in Londonderry and, although the continual arrest or warning of offenders has reduced the number of incidents, and the age group of offenders, it still presents a serious current problem and threat to the future stability of the community in City Londonderry.

AIM

4. The aim of your study is to recommend:
 - a. The reaction/attitude the Army should best adopt towards stone throwers and hooligans in the City of Londonderry, including a situation where a full scale riot has taken place.
 - b. The help in inculcating into young people a proper sense of responsibility and respect for law and order that can be given by:
 - (1) The Army.
 - (2) The RUC.
 - (3) The NIO by recommendations to the statutory and voluntary bodies/agencies concerned with youth. These should include education authorities and Church bodies.

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LIMITATIONS

5. Your study should be restricted to the area West of the River Foyle in Londonderry and you will therefore be under the direction of Commander 8 Inf Bde for all purposes.
6. Your final report and recommendations are to be submitted to the Chief of Staff HQ Northern Ireland, through Commander 8 Inf Bde, by 15 July 1974. If, after your study has started, you consider more time is required you should clear this with the Chief of Staff.

SCOPE

7. It is hoped that a sociologist from APRE will be available as a consultant to assist you in your study.
8. The CRLO, HQ Northern Ireland and Senior RC Chaplain 8 Inf Bde are available to assist and advise you throughout your study.
9. You should consult the staff and units of 8 Inf Bde, local civic, youth and church leaders in Londonderry, Mr J H Parkes at the NIO, and the Ministry of Community Relations at Stormont, for background and advice.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that the reaction/attitude the Army should adopt towards aggro in LONDONDERRY should be based on:
 - a. Making no major changes to the current anti-aggro policies.
 - b. Making no changes to the states of military profile or attitude in any of the areas west of the river, at the present time.
 - c. Carrying out as many planned operations as possible on week-day mornings from 0200 to 1200 hours.
 - d. Consideration being given by Commander 8 Brigade to the issuing of new instructions concerning the wearing of protective clothing, and the taking of protective measures in vehicles.
 - e. The setting up of a study to increase the effectiveness of photography in its use against aggro.
 - f. Requesting as a priority matter authority for the use of CR agent as a riot control weapon.
 - g. Ensuring that a comprehensive briefing on the characteristics of the local Catholic people is given to all incoming units and individual reinforcements.
 - h. Using more positively ARMY INFORMATION SERVICES to explain security force operations, and to counter IRA propaganda and community rumours.

2. It is recommended that help in inculcating into young people a proper sense of responsibility and respect for law and order can be given by:
 - a. The Army: by means of:
 - (1) An examination being made, in conjunction with the RUC, of the way the young offenders law is being interpreted, and to ascertain whether changes are needed to the rules for the apprehension, charging and punishment of young offenders.

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- (2) An examination being made, in conjunction with the RUC, of the sentences being awarded to young offenders, or the parents of young offenders, to ascertain whether changes are needed to these.
 - (3) Maximum contact, being maintained and increased where possible, with the people through the various tenants' associations.
 - (4) Help being given whenever possible to youth clubs and in support of youth activities such as camps, holidays and adventure exercises, away from the city.
- b. The RUC: by means of:
- (1) Examinations being made in conjunction with the Army on the items in paragraphs 2a (1) and (2).
 - (2) Examinations being made of the proposals for creating a new city police force.
- c. The NIO (through the statutory and voluntary youth organisations): by means of:
- (1) The provision of more recreational facilities, particularly of football pitches, and the repair of existing facilities so that they can be used again.
 - (2) The early provision of secondary modern schools for boys and girls in the Shantallow/Carn Hill area.
 - (3) The provision in the future of some larger houses in each Catholic area.
 - (4) The creation of more employment for males, and an investigation into the payment of unemployment benefits in LONDONDERRY to ensure that the system is not being abused.
 - (5) An investigation being made by the schools into the organisation of adult evening classes, pre-school nursery groups, and community projects.

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- (6) The gradual introduction of more mixed religion schools.
- (7) Efforts being made to reduce school truancy by the provision of a practical and effective deterrent.
- (8) The use of the media to publicise to parents the need to control their children, and to emphasise the dangers of terrorism and aggro.
- (9) Ensuring that effective punishment is given to convicted gang-leaders, persistent offenders and the parents of persistent offenders, whenever they break the law.
- (10) Arrangements being made for additional visits, holidays and adventure exercises for young people, to get them away from LONDONDERRY.
- (11) The sending into these communities teams of social workers to reinforce local youth/social workers.
- (12) The organisation of a body to be overall co-ordinator of all youth activities in the city: to be a form of LONDONDERRY YOUTH COMMISSION.
- (13) The provision of more small youth centres with the trained staff available to run them.
- (14) Arrangements being made to cater for the under 12 year olds in more of the existing youth clubs.
- (15) The provision of supervisory staff to oversee them if more adventure playgrounds are built in the future.
- (16) School facilities being made available for the use of youth organisations during non-school hours.
- (17) Provision of extra support in a practical form for the existing youth clubs in the city.

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