

Mrs Collins - Mr Wilson said to pass a copy on to you

Andrew Durkan - 5278.  
J.

1113/2 G3/G5

Oct 89

Mr Austin Wilson  
US Law and Order NIO

Security Force Operations  
Received:  
- 3 OCT 1989  
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Northern Ireland Office

BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR IGC

1. This folder contains background briefing material for SSNI's use at the forthcoming IGC. It has been approved by GOC.

2. Army Operations in NI. At.....  
is a brief which explains how the Army operates in NI.

FLAG A

3. Control of Terrorist Recognition Material. In June 1988 HQ NI issued a Policy letter on the security of Terrorist Recognition material and specifically collation photographs. A copy of this policy letter is at ...

FLAG B

4. Disciplinary Policy - Control of Photographs and Montages. Measures are now in hand to tighten still further the controls of Photographs and other associated material. A copy of our draft Disciplinary Policy letter is at .....

FLAG C

5. Photographic Montages. An example of an up to date montage is at ....

FLAG D

AJM DURCAN  
Lt Col  
Chief G3 (Ops)  
Ext 42173

1113/2.

SECRET

ARMY OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND  
BRIEF FOR SSNI

INTRODUCTION

1. In the five years from 1980, there was a steady decline in Terrorist activity. This much welcomed trend appeared to indicate that normality was slowly but surely returning to the Province and it fostered a real expectation that the Army's support to the RUC could soon be limited to hard republican areas and to the provision of specialist technical support.

2. Thus it was against this optimistic background that the principle of RUC accompaniment of all military patrols (save in exceptional circumstances) was built into the Anglo Irish agreement of 1985 as a means further to enhance confidence in the Security Forces particularly within the majority nationalist community.

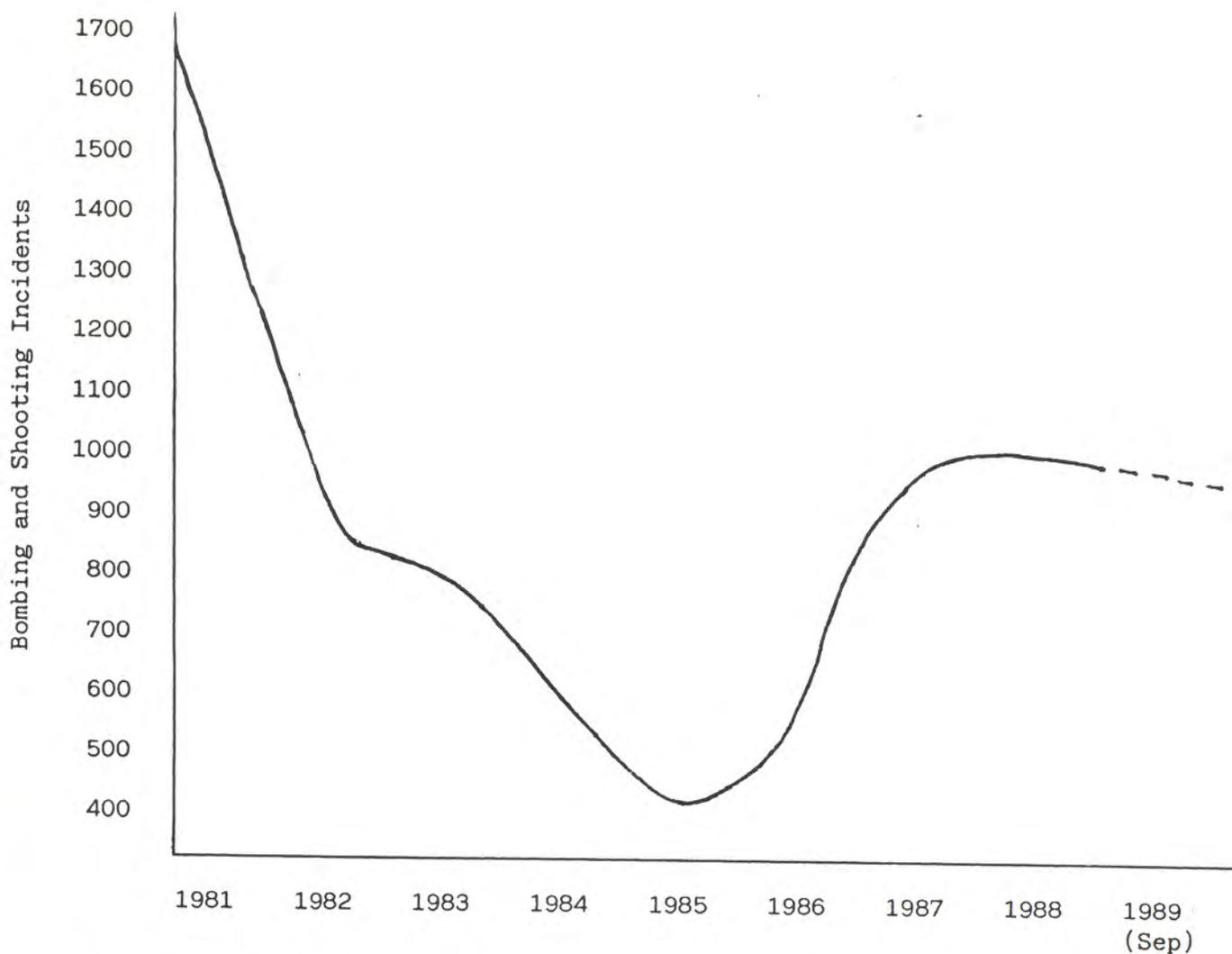
3. Since then, events have unfortunately taken a different turn. Terrorist activity from both camps rose steadily in the four years from 1986 but the most significant development was the delivery to the Provisional IRA of massive arms shipments, estimated at some 100 tonnes in five ship loads, of which only one, the EKSUND, was actually intercepted. By the end of 1987 therefore, PIRA had more munitions at its disposal than at any other time in the history of the campaign.

4. Terrorist activity, especially from PIRA, rose sharply and triggered a corresponding increase in military activity to counter the renewed threat. 1988 in particular was marked by a series of spectacular terrorist attacks as the summary below shows.

Attacks	Total Number of Incidents			
	1986	1987	1988	1989 (to 31 Aug)
Bombs	275	393	466	282
Shooting Attacks	312	674	537	375

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To place this in a wider perspective, the overall trends in terrorist activity levels since 1981 are illustrated in this graph.



6. The underlying trend across this period was a steady rise in military activities; two extra roulement battalions were deployed to the Province in 1986 and since then there has been a steady rise in the level of deployment of the province's resident battalions with over 70% of their companies involved in operational duties at any one time. The daily work rate has also been affected. For example, averaged across the board, all units - resident, roulement and UDR - increased their work rate by 10% during the last year alone.

7. It thus became clear that while RUC accompaniment of military patrols remained an aspiration, it would be impossible to implement fully without a significant and expensive increase in RUC effort.

#### PRINCIPLES OF MILITARY OPERATIONS

8. **The Army's Role:** The role of the Army in Northern Ireland (and this includes the UDR) is to support the RUC in the defeat of terrorism.

9. **Operational Policy.** Operations are conducted in accordance with policy laid down by the GOC. In essence, Army operations are conducted in support of the RUC, within the law, and are directed in the main at counter terrorist actions. Public order tasks are rare. Counter terrorist operations are designed to deter the terrorist: when dealing with armed terrorists, soldiers must be prepared to apprehend them with a view to securing a conviction, and to open fire on them within the law if there is no alternative available. Security Force activities are also designed to reassure the public as a whole. Individual alertness, awareness and sensitivity are essential. So is the mental and physical ability to take advantage of any fleeting opportunity to close with the terrorist: this requires an instinctive aggressive reaction to terrorist attack.

#### THE REGULAR ARMY

10. **General.** The regular forces in the Province are mainly found by the Infantry but they include elements of the RN, RAF and specialists from Engineer, Signals, Bomb Disposal and Logistic units. This brief concentrates only on Infantry Units as it is they who come into contact with the public while on operational duty.

11. **Infantry Battalions.** There are two types of Battalion in the Province - Resident and Roulement. Resident Battalions are on two year tours and are accompanied by their families. They are based in permanent barracks and generally deploy up to two of their four companies at a time on operations. Roulement Battalions, on the other hand, are on four and a half month tours and all four companies are fully committed on operations.

12. **Deployment.** Regular Infantry Battalions are deployed in the high threat areas of West Belfast, South Armagh and Londonderry City. Regular troops are also deployed in the areas of the Border Zone and regular companies are deployed to support UDR Battalions in high threat areas in Tyrone. In terms of ground areas, the Regular Army covers 25% of the Province.

13. **Patrol Tasks.** Tasks given to regular Army patrols will range from covert surveillance to search operations, foot and vehicle escorts to RUC patrols, clearance operations and vehicle checks. Much of this activity intentionally brings soldiers in to contact with the public; some does not. In general terms a Resident Battalion soldier will spend some 58% of his nights out of his own bed. When deployed on operations, soldiers work a 16 hour day with the remaining time devoted to sleep and essential administration. Even when based in barracks, the average hours worked per week will exceed 65 hrs. A roulement Battalion soldier, in comparison, will spend 41% of his time on patrol tasks. The proportion of that effort carried out at night (that is, away from his bed) is less relevant since he is fully available for duty throughout his tour and apart from four days leave in GB, he has very little time for recreation. He too works a 16 to 18 hour day.

14. **Other Tasks.** There are a range of other duties and activities carried out by regular soldiers which do not bring them into contact with the public. These include guards and static commitments, administration, and, in the case of Resident Battalions, leave and training. The following table summarises the position, giving a comparison between the balance of effort devoted to operational and non operational duties based on the average 16 hour working day.

Battalion Type	Operational Duties (Patrols, Guards, Key Points Observation Posts, Maj Ops, Reinforcements and Trg) %	Non Operational Duties Administration and Leave %
Resident	73	27
Roulement	94	6

#### THE UDR

15. General. The UDR consists of nine Infantry Battalions recruited in the main locally in Northern Ireland. In operational terms, the UDR are broadly similar to Regular Resident Battalions in that they are permanently stationed in Ulster.

16. Structure. The structure of the UDR differs from that of the Regular Army. It has full time companies (Permanent Cadre) which are the same as Regular companies but it also has Part Time companies which work at nights and at weekends, and whose soldiers also have full time civilian jobs. Some 55% of the UDR are Part Time and thus are an important component of the force.

17. Deployment. UDR Battalions are deployed in the main in Medium and Low Threat areas, with the exception of one battalion which is deployed in East Tyrone. UDR Battalions thus cover the predominantly loyalist areas of the Province and those areas where the population is mixed, such as North Armagh, Tyrone and parts of Fermanagh. In terms of ground area, UDR Battalions cover 75% of the Province and with their nine battalions account for some 40% of the total Infantry force.

18. Patrol Tasks. The UDR operate in support of the RUC and respond to their tasking. As with the Regular Army, RUC officers accompany UDR patrols when resources permit. The types of operational task given to the UDR are more limited than those of the Regular Army in that they are specifically excluded from crowd and riot control and from plain clothes covert operations. Broadly, the hours worked are similar to those of regular resident Battalions: for a permanent Cadre soldier he is likely to have a 70 hour week with one night in three away from home. The Part Time soldier will work approximately one third of these hours. No overtime is payable.

19. Other Tasks. The UDR also has a range of other duties to perform, including administration, training, static guards and leave. The table below illustrates the proportion of effort spent across the range of activities, comparing full time UDR, part time UDR and resident regular soldiers. It should be stressed that whereas regular battalions are in Province for two years, UDR battalions are here permanently. This factor is important in setting the work rate for UDR soldiers. Furthermore, UDR families live within the community and UDR soldiers are particularly at risk when off duty. Living with such a high threat to personal security has an impact on family morale and is another factor to be taken into account when setting the levels of UDR duties, especially when those duties take soldiers away from home for extended periods.

Battalion/Company	Operational Duties (Patrols, Guards, Key Points Observation Posts, Maj Ops, Reinforcements and Trg) %	Non Operational Duties Administration and Leave %
UDR PC	68	32
UDR PT	49	51
Resident Bn	73	27

### THE ARMY AND THE PUBLIC

20. Contact with the Public. The Regular soldier is deployed almost entirely in Nationalist areas and thus his contact with the public while on duty is in the Nationalist community, both in rural and urban areas. The UDR soldier, on the other hand, works in the Loyalist areas and those mixed areas with smaller nationalist pockets. Considerable effort is devoted to teaching soldiers how to treat members of the public and the media both before and during tours of duty in the province. Sensitivity to public feelings and awareness of hostile propaganda is critical.

21. Complaints. There is a structure for reporting and investigating complaints made by members of the public and it is in the Army's interests to see that all complaints are fully investigated and the appropriate action taken. As a comparison, in the period from 1 January to 31 August 1989, the total number of formal non criminal complaints made against the Army totalled 184, of which enquiries into 160 have been completed. 16 of these were substantiated, 4 established fault on both sides, and 54 were neither substantiated nor disproved. 86 were denied. All but 18 received written replies; the balance were dealt with by personal visits.

### COOPERATION WITH THE RUC

22. The Committee System. There is a formal committee system where joint liaison and planning is carried out between the Army and the RUC at all levels. The committee structure is summarised below. Note that the senior RUC Officer invariably chairs these meetings.

Committee	RUC attendance (Chairman)	Army attendance
Operations Coordinating Group	DCC	CLF (Major General)
Regional Action Committee	ACC	Brigade Commander (Brigadier)
Divisional Action Committees	Divisional Commander	Battalion Commander (Lieutenant Colonel)
Sub Divisional Action Committee	Sub Divisional Commander	Company Commander (Major)

**RUC Tasking.** With the exception of the Border Zone, all military patrols are tasked or approved by the RUC at the appropriate level. In the Border Zone, the Army leads in counter terrorist operations but close consultation with and involvement of RUC agencies is always maintained. The RUC still call for military support for RUC originated tasks in the Border Zone and this support is invariably produced when resources permit.

**24. Operations Rooms.** Joint Police/Army Operations Rooms have been established in many areas at divisional/battalion or sub divisional/company level in the Province. Currently there are four full time joint operations rooms and a further eight army operations rooms with an RUC liaison officer therein. Contingency plans exist for the joint manning of a further nineteen operations rooms in RUC stations across the province. The establishment of these joint rooms allows for joint planning and consultation and efficient management of both RUC and Army resources during the course of an incident.

#### RUC ACCOMPANIMENT OF ARMY PATROLS

**25. Policy.** The policy enshrined in the Anglo-Irish agreement that "as soon as possible all Army patrols which will come into contact with the public should, save in the most exceptional circumstances, be accompanied by RUC officers" is quite clear. Furthermore, it would be in the Army's interests, and especially for the UDR, if all patrols were accompanied as this would do much to offset unsubstantiated but nevertheless damaging allegations of misbehaviour by soldiers. There are, however, a number of factors which make this desirable objective virtually impossible to achieve in its entirety. These are described below.

**26. RUC Manpower.** The RUC simply does not have the manpower to provide accompaniment for every patrol. The only options open to change the present position are either to increase the RUC substantially, or to reduce Army operational activity. The former is the business of the RUC and may well be expensive: the latter will carry an unacceptable operational penalty.

**27. RUC to Army ratios.** Although a patrol may be accompanied by Police, the operational circumstances may be such that the majority of soldiers on the patrol are not generally in sight of the RUC officers. This occurs in urban areas such as West Belfast, where one four man team provides close protection to two RUC officers - but up to five more four man teams provide essential protection in depth for the "Primary" team containing the police officers. On top of that, two more teams may be mounted in vehicles providing a mobile reserve for the patrol commander. Thus out of a total Army force within the patrol of 48 men, only four are in visual contact with the police officers all the time. Thus what the public may perceive to be "an unaccompanied patrol" will in fact be flanking elements of a larger, accompanied, force.

**28. Military Tactics.** Certain types of military patrols require a degree of agility of movement and a use of ground that would be inappropriate for a uniformed police officer to adopt. For example, a military patrol of four four-man teams may be tasked to conduct a sweep of an urban area to disrupt a possible command wire Bomb attack. This patrol would move ahead of an accompanied patrol and would move very rapidly using alleys, minor streets and crossing fences at unexpected places. Such a style of movement would be out of keeping with the image required of a Police Officer on the beat.

**29. The UDR.** Wherever it operates all UDR patrol effort is either directed or approved by the RUC.



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13

See Distribution

Your reference

Our reference 9300 G2 (CI)

Date 28 Jun 88

SECURITY OF INFORMATION

COLLATION PHOTOGRAPHS

Reference:

- A. Manual of Army Security (MAS) Volume I.
- B. NIGSSIs Part II.

INTRODUCTION

1. Several recent cases have highlighted the need for improved security in our document handling particularly with regard to photographic records. Reference A Chapter 7 Paragraph 0702(d) defines all forms of imagery, photographs, negatives, slides or videos as documents which should be afforded the same protection as any written record according to the classification. The aim of this letter is to lay down policy for control of photographic records in order to avoid compromises or losses which are both a security breach and a source of propaganda for extremist groups.

SECURITY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

2. DEFINITION. The following types of photographic records are generally available in Northern Ireland:

- a. Photographic Collages. Single sheets containing a number of photographs of identified terrorists/persons of interest.
- b. RIC Photography. Ground or aerial photographs of buildings or areas.
- c. WIS Photography. Photographic records of incidents/attacks.
- d. Video Photography. Videos of incidents, parades or route marches etc.

3. CONTROL. The following rules are to be adhered to when producing any form of photographic record for issue to sub units.

- a. Central Production. The photographs must be produced centrally, either at unit or Bde level. Blocks of photographs must be serial numbered and signed for at every level of issue.

RESTRICTED

b. Identifying Marks. The photographs should not contain any identifying marks other than a serial number. Unit titles, telephone numbers etc should not be used. In the case of photographic collages, no reference should be made on the photographs to the organisation to which the personalities belong or to their role within that organisation at any classification below CONFIDENTIAL.

c. Serial Numbers. Each photograph is to be serial numbered against the distribution list. The serial number is to be marked at the top and bottom of the photograph.

d. Distribution. While it is accepted that photographs should be distributed to the people who need to see them, distribution should be kept to a minimum conducive with operational efficiency. In particular:

(1) If a photograph is taken on patrol it must not be held as a loose document. The photograph is to be enclosed in a plastic wallet and physically secured by a lanyard to the person who has received it.

(2) Photographs are to be checked physically during the admin period following a deployment.

(3) Only notes and photographs specific to a patrol area should be taken on the street.

(4) Units deployed to an area on a temporary basis must withdraw all photographs at the end of the deployment.

(5) No photography is to be kept as a souvenir. Units should withdraw all photographs at the end of a tour or deployment and hand them over to the incoming unit. If a photograph is required for a pre-tour briefing then it is to be distributed from the originator.

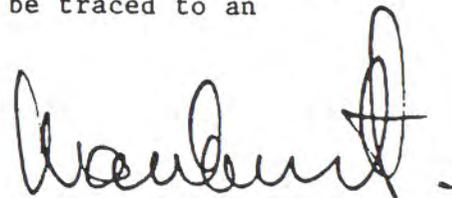
(6) No photograph is to be taken out of the Province without reference to the originator.

e. Reproduction. No photograph is to be copied or photocopied without the permission of the originator. Reproduction copies should be signed for as if they were originals.

f. Disposal and Destruction. When no longer required photographs are to be disposed of correctly in accordance with their classification. In units where photographs are issued to patrol level, the photographs are to be withdrawn and destroyed centrally.

#### SUMMARY

4. The above instructions will be incorporated into NIGSSIs in due course. Units are to implement the above instruction on receipt of this letter. In future, disciplinary action will be taken in cases where breaches of security caused by loss or incorrect disposal of photographs can be traced to an individual or unit.



W A MACKERETH  
Col  
ACOS G2

Distribution:

List A.



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DISCIPLINARY POLICY - RETENTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS,  
MONTAGES AND OTHER MATERIAL OF ASSISTANCE TO  
TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS

Reference:

A. HQNI 9300 G2 (CI) dated 28 Jun 88.

BACKGROUND

1. Reference A laid down stringent rules for the control of photographic montages following an incident in which 2 soldiers passed information to individuals not authorised to receive it.
2. The current cases under investigation in which it is alleged members of the security forces passed information to unauthorised individuals and organisations have seriously damaged the standing of security forces. It is therefore imperative that the flow of such information is stopped and that anyone retaining such information, after being given the opportunity to return it without punishment, is rendered liable to disciplinary action.
3. To this end a standing order is to be introduced in all units to cover improper possession of material for the future. In addition a declaration by all ranks in Province that they no longer possess any material they are not entitled to, so that disciplinary action can be taken if they are found with any material subsequently.

STAFF IN CONFIDENCE  
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STANDING ORDER

4. Current orders in force allow disciplinary action to be taken against soldiers who take material they are not entitled to whilst off duty. This is simple theft. The Standing Order attached at Annex A covers the improper retention of material obtained whilst on duty. It is to be published in accordance with QRs 5.122 forthwith and repeated quarterly. Brigades are to ensure that roulement units and HQNI is to ensure that roulement force troop units have this Standing Order drawn to their attention.

DECLARATION

5. In order to ensure that any soldier who is already in improper possession of material prior to the Standing Order can be dealt with, having been given the opportunity to hand it back without penalty, the Declaration attached at Annex B is to be signed by all ranks.

6. The order should be issued verbally in the first instance and followed up on unit routine orders. Individuals should be given two weeks to hand in any material and arrangements made for personnel on the posted strength of the unit but on a course or leave to sign the declaration on their return. The declaration at Annex B should be retained under unit arrangements until the soldier leaves the Province.

M J STRUDWICK  
Col  
for GOC

Annexes:

- A. Standing Order.
- B. Declaration.

ANNEX A TO  
HQNI 10008 G1  
DATED SEP 89

STANDING ORDER - IMPROPER RETENTION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC OR OTHER MATERIAL  
OF ASSISTANCE TO A TERRORIST ORGANISATION

1. Any person subject to military law who obtains in the course of his duties, any photograph of a terrorist suspect, or other material which might be of assistance to any terrorist organisation, must not retain possession of such photograph or material otherwise than in the course of his duties, without reasonable excuse.

2. It is an offence under Section 36(1) of the Army Act 1955, to disobey paragraph 1 above. An example of the kind of conduct which will amount to an offence under paragraph 1 above, is the case of a soldier who takes home photographs of terrorist suspects he obtained while on duty, without having permission to do so.

, ANNEX B TO  
HQNI 10008 G1  
DATED SEP 89

DECLARATION THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS NO LONGER IN IMPROPER  
POSSESSION OF PHOTOGRAPHS, MONTAGES OR OTHER MATERIAL  
OF ASSISTANCE TO A TERRORIST ORGANISATION

1. I ordered (number) (rank) (name) (unit) to return any photograph of terrorist suspects or other material which might be of assistance to any terrorist organisation which he obtained while on duty and which he has retained in his private possession, otherwise than in the course of his duty, to (place) by (date).

Signature Block

Signature Witnessed by  
(number, rank, name)

2. I was ordered by (number) (rank) (name) (unit) to return any photographs of terrorist suspects or other material which might be of assistance to any terrorist organisation which I have retained in my private possession otherwise than in the course of my duties, to (place) by (date).

Signature Block

Signature Witnessed by  
(number, rank, name)

3. I (number) (rank) (name) (unit) hereby certify that on (the date following the due date) I do not possess any photographs of terrorist suspects or other material which might be of assistance to any terrorist organisation, otherwise than in the course of my duties or as directed by my superiors.

Signature Block

Signature Witnessed by  
(number, rank, name)