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#### STATISTICS ON NI SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

Over the past few months the NIO Statistics Branch has been carrying out a review of the information available on various aspects of the NI security environment. In the course of that review it has become clear that in a number of areas within the information gathering/statistical field there is much duplication of effort and that there is scope for further harmonisation in the way the NIO, RUC and HQNI gather and record data about the security situation.

It is also important that the RUC, Army and NIO have access to reliable data across the whole security spectrum in Northern Ireland which is readily accessible. The NIO, for example, produces a considerable volume of security related statistical information (eg monthly PTA statistics, length of remand periods, answers to PQs) but the information is gathered inevitably from disparate sources which are automatically compatible: for example, aggregated statistics and textual based information from either the RUC or HQNI. We believe, therefore, that there would be advantage in establishing a common statistical data base on security matters between the NIO, RUC and HQNI which can not only hold and collate speedily a wide range of information about the total security environment in NI in such a way as to allow the information to be drawn together and interrogated intelligently, but that we should also exploit modern technology to improve the quality of the information available to us.

Accordingly I enclose a more detailed paper on the proposal which I hope we can consider at the new Security Co-ordinating Meeting although I should be happy to discuss it, less formally, before then.

I am also sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to David Venn, and James Harrison at HQNI as well as internally here.

P N BELL

HC Mr A P Wilson - B  
Mr Blackwell - B  
Mr McConnell - B  
Mr Masefield - B  
Mr Beckett, DH - B

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STATISTICS ON NORTHERN IRELAND SECURITY ENVIRONMENT - MEMORANDUM BY THE NIO

The Proposal

1. This paper proposes that a common statistical data base on security matters should be established and recommends that a statistical co-ordinating group be formed to take this forward.

Background

2. The Complaints Monitoring Committee (CMC) identified, early in 1989, the need for more refined statistical analysis of the patterns of complaints against the security forces. At the same time, the Committee considered that the value of any computer based system established would be greatly enhanced, not just for the CMC but also, and more generally, for the security forces themselves as well as for the NIO as a whole, if a new system could be devised which would provide reliable, consistent and comprehensive information on a wide range of security related issues not hitherto available. At a meeting of the CMC in March 1989, NIO Statistics Branch was therefore tasked with reviewing the information available on various aspects of the Northern Ireland Security Environment of which information on complaints would only be one, and by no means the most important element. During their review, (which concentrated on security incidents, Army activity, complaints against the security forces and compensation claims arising from RUC/Army activity), NIO Statistics Branch held discussions with the major parties concerned. These identified a number of areas within the information gathering/statistical field where there is scope either

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for rationalisation or for the provision of better information in the interests of all the organisations involved and where further work will need to be done before a technical solution can be implemented. These are discussed below.

### Security Incidents

3. NIO, RUC and HQNI each have a substantial interest in having readily available reliable data on security incidents. Each organisation requires access both to individual incident based information and to aggregate statistics in order to respond to comments/queries on the security front as well as to inform the development of policy. Daily situation reports and daily RUC Duty Officer's reports currently provide the available information on security incidents.

4. At present, two separate retrieval/statistical systems are operated respectively by RUC and HQNI. This duplication of effort leaves both the RUC and HQNI open to embarrassment if, as sometimes happens despite strenuous efforts, the information produced by the two is inconsistent. In order to overcome this, the review concluded that consideration should be given to the development of a single information/statistical system that would meet RUC, HQNI and NIO needs. The adoption of a single system would not preclude each organisation incorporating within it information specific to its own requirements.

5. Pending the development of such a system, it was suggested that for particular types of information either the RUC or HQNI should be

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agreed upon as the definitive source. This would mean that at any one time only one source of data would be quoted publicly. It was also suggested that it would be helpful if all statistical records within the HQNI data could as an interim measure be copied to NIO Statistics Branch's computer. A list of the categories of data which it is thought that it would be useful to hold on a common database is attached at Annex 'A'. These categories could in turn be dis- and/or re-aggregated by geographical area, service unit or other appropriate indicator. It would be important to update the 'database' regularly so that interrogation did not produce outdated figures.

### Indications of Army Activity

6. Each time the Army carries out a detailed property, vehicle or route search, a Northern Ireland Search Report is completed. The information thus produced is held on computer, but the relatively primitive nature of the present system means that only textual retrieval of it is possible. The system has no statistical capabilities. In order that the information produced in search reports could have a wider utility, the review suggested that the statistical data should be transferred to a more suitable computer, such as, for example, the one operated by NIO Statistics Branch. It was noted if such a change was made HQNI would also benefit from the availability of statistical summaries. This list is not necessarily exhaustive, however.

### Complaints, Compensation and Civil Litigation

7. Complaints against the security forces which are investigated for disciplinary reasons can be a useful indicator of

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dissatisfaction with security force activity. However, "policy related" complaints, compensation claims and civil litigations can also be important indicators of public concern. Accordingly, the review suggested that a computerised statistical system which could take account of all types of complaints and compensation claims arising out of RUC/Army activity should be set up. For this purpose, it would be necessary for each agency to forward to NIO Statistics Branch a case based return of all claims/complaints received. Whilst the format of such a return would need a certain degree of standardisation, it is not thought that it would be difficult to devise something that would be compatible with existing record-keeping in both HQNI and the RUC.

### Complaints against the RUC

8. RUC and ICPC statistics presently appear to be inconsistent. This is because of differences in timing, presentation and coverage. Some complaints take more than a year to process. Consequently data on complaints investigated is dated and this makes it more difficult to assess current trends in the type and volume of complaints. However, this situation could be improved - first, by more detailed analysis of the complaints as they are received; and second, by the creation of a case-based record system, based on the records held by the RUC. The review noted that the latter would require close co-ordination between the RUC, and other interested parties with the RUC taking the lead.

### Conclusion

9. It is in the interests of the NIO, the RUC and HQNI, that there should be established a computer-based data base of the security

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environment in Northern Ireland which would meet the needs of all three organisations for easily accessible and reliable information on a wide range of security matters. A Review, carried out by the NIO Statistics Branch, has identified (see paras 3-8 above) a number of areas where further work needs to be done (in addition to the logistical work of developing and implementing the necessary systems). The view of the NIO is that this work should now be taken forward. For this purpose, it is proposed to establish a Steering Group under the Chairmanship of the Head of SPOB and comprising representatives of the NIO, RUC and HQNI to plan and superintend the development and establishment of a common statistical database.

SECURITY POLICY AND OPERATIONS DIVISION  
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ANNEX 'A

COMMON STATISTICAL DATA BASE MIGHT INCLUDE SUCH CATEGORIES AS:-

\*Shooting Incidents

Deaths and injuries of non-involved persons

'Punishment' Incidents

\*Riots

\*Injuries to civilians

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VEHICLE SEARCH SERVICE

SAFETY HOUSE SERVICE

Vehicle Searches

Plastic Baton Rounds

House Searches

Munitions Finds

Explosive Finds

Munitions Finds in ROI

Explosive Finds in ROI

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Bombing Incidents

Security Force Casualties

Security Force Deaths

Terrorist:

- Arrests
- Charges brought
- Detention Cases (PTA)
- Convictions
- Deaths
- Casualties

Arrests in ROI

Rocket/Mortar Attacks

Extraditions pending or carried out

EOD Statistics

EPA Statistics

Complaints Against the Army

Complaints Against the Police

Compensation claims against Army/Police

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RUC Statistics on Crime

Geographical Breakdown of Incidents etc

Sectarian Breakdown of Incidents etc

Breakdown of Incidents etc by RUC Division, Brigade, TAOR

Breakdown of incidents etc by service, unit etc

Prison population by location, type of offence, sentence,  
sectarian breakdown etc

- \* Definition will have to be carefully defined and agreed by all concerned.

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