45/89.

P/a.

Mr McGrigh
Any problem? AB 25/9, P23/89
P33/88

From: N S C HOEY
        Security Policy & Operations Division
        22 September 1989

cc Mr Bell, SPOB o/r – B
    Mr Blackwell, SIL – B
    Mr Shannon, POB – B
    Mr Masefield – B
    Mr McConnell, PAB – B
    Mr McKervill, SPOB o/r – B
    Mr Marsh, PAB – B
    Mr McGonigle, POB – B
    Principal Secretariat – B
    Mr Wightman, PRIN CIVREP
    Mr Watson, PRIN CIVREP
    Mr Woods, PRIN CIVREP
    Mr Beckett, NIO Statistics
    Mr Donnelly, NIO Statistics
    Miss Johnston, SPOB – B
    Mr Harrison, CIVAD

**STATISTICS ON NI SECURITY ENVIRONMENT: OUTLINE PAPER FOR
DISCUSSION: SECOND DRAFT**

A revised draft of the outline paper for discussion on 'Statistics
on NI Security Environment', is now attached. I should be grateful
if copy recipients would now consider this and let me have any
further textual improvements by 29 September, with a view then of
tabling the paper at the October SCM.

(SIGNED)

N S C HOEY
SHA Ext 272

2/Wk 21/9/89.

Mrs McKnight
I have spoken to AS and Mr Hoey.
We have no comments on
the paper at this stage except
to say that it has been
expanded since the idea
was proposed in the first
instance –

29/9/89

SECOND DRAFT

STATISTICS ON NORTHERN IRELAND SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

1.   Purpose

This paper seeks the agreement of NIO, RUC and HQNI in principle to
the establishment of a common statistical data base and recommends
that a statistical co-ordinating group be formed to take this
forward.

2.   Background

At a meeting of the Complaints Monitoring Group in March 1989
NIO Statistics Branch was tasked with reviewing the information
available on various aspects of the Northern Ireland Security
Environment. During the course of the review, which focussed on
security incidents, Army activity and complaints and compensation
claims arising from RUC/Army activity, NIO Statistics Branch held
discussions with the major parties concerned. These discussions
raised a number of anomalies with the information gathering/
statistical field which this paper now highlights.

3.   Security Incidents

NIO, RUC and HQNI have considerable interest in data on security
incidents. Each organisation requires access to individual incident
based information and aggregate statistics in order to respond to
comments/queries on the security front and to assist in the
formulation of policy. Daily situation reports and daily RUC duty
officer's reports presently form the basis for this information.

4.   At present two separate retrieval/statistical systems operate
within RUC/HQNI. This duplication of effort leaves both the RUC and
HQNI open to embarrassment if, as sometimes does happen despite
strenuous efforts, the systems fail to agree with one another. In
an effort to overcome this the review concluded that thought should
be given to the development of a single information/
statistical system to meet RUC, HQNI and NIO needs (at present the
NIO does not have the benefit of such a system). A single system
would not preclude each organisation incorporating information
specific to its own requirements.

5.   Pending the development of the above it was further suggested
that for each aspect of the security situation either RUC or HQNI
should be agreed upon as the definitive source. This would mean
that at any one time only one source of data would be quoted
publicly. This includes data (mostly from the RUC side) not looked
at in the NIO Statistics Branch review. At the same time the review
suggested that it would be helpful if the statistical records from
the HQNI system could be copied to NIO Statistics Branch's
computer. A list of the sort of data which it would be useful to
hold on a common database is attached at Annex 'A'. (It will be
important to update the 'database' regularly so that interrogation
does not produce outdated figures).

6.   Indications of Army Activity

Each time the Army carries out a detailed property, vehicle or route
search, a Northern Ireland Search Report is completed. This
information is held on computer but the primitive nature of the

present system means that the information can only be used for textual retrieval. It has no statistical capabilities. In order properly to utilise this information the review therefore suggests that the statistical data should be transferred to a more suitable computer, for example, such as the one operated by NIO Statistics Branch. If HQNI were to agree to this the review noted that the Army in turn could benefit from any consequent statistical summaries.

7.   Complaints, Compensation and Civil Litigation

Complaints against the security forces which are investigated for disciplinary reasons can be a useful measure of 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. This could be best achieved if each agency involved were 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 could be tailored to suit the peculiarities of each of the various operational systems. In view of the information currently to hand the database is, in the initial stages at least, likely to concentrate on complaints and compensation claims arising out of Army activity rather than that of the police.

8.   Complaints against the RUC

RUC and ICPC statistics are presently at variance with each other
due to a difference in timing, presentation and coverage. It was
noted that many cases took more than a year to process, and
consequently data on complaints investigated was somewhat dated when
it came to assessing current trends in type and volume of
complaints. However, this situation could be reversed by (i) a more
detailed analysis of the complaints received and (ii) the creation
of a case based system, based on the records held by the RUC. The
review noted that this would require close co-ordination between the
RUC and other interested parties with the RUC taking the lead.

9.   Recommendation

A steering group should be set up to develop and establish a common
statistical database and the RUC, HQNI and NIO should work hand in
hand to develop a common statistical/information system to the
benefit of all concerned.

ANNEX 'A

COMMON STATISTICAL DATA BASE MIGHT INCLUDE SUCH AREAS AS:-

Complaints Against the Army

Complaints Against the Police

Compensation claims against Army/Police

*Shooting Incidents

Deaths and injuries of non-involved persons

Punishment Incidents

*Riots

*Injuries to civilians

Vehicle Searches

Plastic Baton Rounds

House Searches

Munitions Finds

10072

Explosive Finds

Munitions Finds in ROI

Explosive Finds in ROI

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

10072

RUC Statistics on Crime

Geographical Breakdown of Incidents

Sectarian Breakdown of Incidents

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

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