

NOTE OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE NICRC SECURITY WORKING GROUP
AND THE ARMY AT HQNI LISBURN, ON TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER, 1991

Present: NICRC representative

Dr J Hawthorne Brig. Richard Lowe, Chief of Staff of the
Dr M Fitzduff Brig. Angus Ramsay interface from an
Mr P Arthur Mr Michael Clarke, Civil Adviser to GOC
Mr C Ryder
Mr J Walker

1. The Army's View of Community Relations (CR)

- security forces need continuously to be conscious
- the principles underlying good CR are consistent with the general policy and practice adopted by the Army in its role in support of the RUC
- it is quite likely that security forces and the Army devotes a lot of time to the training of incoming units/recruits on CR issues as simple PR and the other as seeking to promote behavioural and
- the RUC has a major input to the Army CR training programme, including training in advance of the arrival of units differences in perspectives, there is great scope for more frequent contacts
- examples of major issues raised in training are:-
 - stressing the fact that not everyone the Army meets in the streets is a terrorist
- the need to treat everyone as they would like their own families to be treated

- the need to be aware of the CR impact of Army actions

- the value of getting to know local leaders

2. The NICRC Perspective

- predictably, the Council get a picture of the civilian/security force interface from an alternative perspective

- increasingly local people and community groups are looking to CCRU to address local issues on the ground, including interface issues with the security forces

- security forces need continuously to be conscious of the negative effects which their actions can have on CR work on the ground

- it is quite likely that security force and community definitions of CR differ widely. At the extremities, one might be described as simple PR

- and the other as seeking to promote behavioural and attitudinal change

- given the likely differences in perspectives, there is great scope for more frequent contacts

- there is scope for greater involvement of non-Army/security force personnel in Army training and in evaluation of training practices

- good progress has been made in London, on foot of very close co-operation between the security forces and community groups. The strength of this

3. Individual Issues Discussed

- complaints procedure. Army are upgrading literature
- rules and procedures of accompaniment and why it is necessary
- a very useful session which benefited from the views. The frank exchanges raised the temperature
- value of neighbourhood watch concept the lid stayed on - even if it wobbled a little
- means of Army relating to local communities and taking account of their views
- public confusion about respective roles and responsibilities of security forces, ie RUC, Army, UDR and on how to communicate with security forces
- case for Army wearing numbers as a means of identification

4. Future issues likely to impact on Community Relations

- the gap between the Army and civil government. Both are addressing the same problems but from different angles. There is scope for developing the middle ground to improve co-operation and effectiveness
- Army would welcome advice on how it could develop its CR role
- good progress has been made in Londonderry, on foot of very close co-operation between the security forces and community groups. The strength of this

link is being further tested with the arrival of a new regiment, the Anglians. If the partnership holds, Londonderry may be a model for other areas in NI.

5. Conclusion

- a very useful meeting which benefited from the frank but constructive exchange of views. The frank exchanges raised the temperature considerably at certain points but the lid stayed on - even if it wobbled a little
- value in having more regular meetings
- may be value in meeting with Brigade Commanders

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