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Department of External Affairs, regarding
enrolment in the Ulster Defence Regiment.

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Mr. Small

To see, please, the attached extract from Hansard (House of Commons Debates) for 29th October, 1970, in which details are given in a written answer of enrolment to date in the UDR.

The details given should, I think, be a matter of some concern to us.

The total enrolment in the UDR as of 23rd October, 1970 is 3,969. Of this total, 1,930, or approx. 50% are former members of the "B"-Specials. This, in itself, is a matter for concern. But the situation is even more serious when one examines the figures for individual counties. In Armagh, 64% of the enrolment are former "B"-Specials; in Fermanagh, the figure is 83%, while in Tyrone, 61% are former "B"-Specials. The figure for Derry is also quite high - 53%.

It is significant, I think, that these high figures for ex-B-Special enrolment should occur in counties close to the Border, and in which the percentage of Unionist to non-Unionist is close to 50 - 50. The position now is that in at least 3 counties (Armagh, Fermanagh and Tyrone) the ex-B Specials have practically taken over their respective UDR battalions.

The UDR was supposed to be a non-sectarian unit of the British Army, representative of all sections of the community. It seems to me that, at least in the three counties referred to, it is becoming a refuge for ex-B Specials, and such members of the minority who may still be in the UDR in these counties will soon be "encouraged" to resign.

(Of course, it is only fair to add that the percentage enrolment of Catholics in the UDR in these mainly nationalist areas was probably insignificant anyway).

Reed

B. O. M.
3 Samhain 1970

Mr. Gallagher

You may wish to see this note by Mr. O'Meara on the composition of the UDR. On 16th June Harry West MP made a big issue ^{in statement} of the fact that in Fermanagh "the establishment stood at over 200 ... whereas 600 was the figure required." The figure now stands at 461 and this sudden increase is probably explained by heavy recruitment from the ranks of ex-B Specials. However, an examination of the file shows that according to information supplied in the British House of Commons on 6th May last 307 applicants had enrolled in the UDR at that time out of a total of 577 applicants. 80% of these applicants were ex-B Specials so it is not surprising that the figure for ex-B Specials now enrolled is 83%. incidentally, on 4th May last when (p10)