

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### IRELAND



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## SECURITY STATISTICS

Garda strength:	30/11/73	7,857
	30/11/74	8,242
	30/11/75	8,488

Army strength:	1969:	8,200
	31/1/76:	13,700

(a) Public expenditure, on defence, army, army pensions, justice, prisons, Gardai, courts:

1969-70:	£ 33.1 m.
1976:	£158.6 m.

	<u>Public expenditure</u> *
(b) Cost of the disturbances, 1969-1974	£53.8m.
1975	£32.7m.
1976	£41.2m.

\* expenditure as at (a), plus malicious injury claims.

Tourism losses 1969-74 £120m. - £240m. (1975 prices)

Losses of industrial investment, etc. are impossible to quantify.

### Special Criminal Court

From end of May, 1972, when the Court was set up, to 31 December, 1975, 922 persons were tried by the Court. 685 were convicted over half of whom are convicted for firearms, explosives, armed robbery offences or for being members of an unlawful organisation.

### Border Patrols etc.

Patrols are sent out from the military posts into the road network around the Border several times every 24 hours. They have instructions to detain any persons found carrying arms illegally. The patrols can be diverted to the scene of a Border incident by radio instructions. In addition stand-to parties are kept in readiness in each post at all times. These are available to respond to requests for aid by the Gardai and can be on their way to the scene of an incident without delay. Helicopters and light aircraft are used as required.

Statistics illustrating Extent of Army Activities

During the twelve months ended on 31 December, 1975

- (i) Over 5,500 military parties were supplied for checking duties and participated with the Gardai in setting up about 10,000 joint Garda/Army check-points.
- (ii) More than 5,400 patrols were sent out into the road network along the Border from the military posts which are maintained in the area.
- (iii) Escorts for explosives and blasting operations were provided on upwards of 1,000 occasions.
- (iv) More than 300 requests for bomb disposal teams were dealt with.

British Minister's expressions of satisfaction with our security effort

1. "I pay tribute to the co-operation we are receiving from the Government of the Irish Republic. My Rt. Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland met Mr. Cooney, the Minister for Justice for the Republic on 8th January, 1976. There is no doubt that the Government of the Republic is as determined as is HMG to stamp out cross-border banditry and murder. There is now close and valuable co-operation between the RUC and the Irish police ....."

Extract from statement on security situation by Prime Minister in House of Commons on 12th January, 1976.

2. "At the end of the meeting Mr. Rees and Mr. Cooney expressed themselves as well satisfied with the progress that had been achieved and emphasised that they were in complete agreement about the need for continuing and close co-operation ...."

Extract from agreed statement issued after security meeting between Mr. Rees and Mr. Cooney in London on 8th January, 1976.

3. "I am certain that we shall need to step up our co-operation on the Border and we are indeed grateful for all the help that has been given to us in the past months and for the excellent results that the Gardaí have achieved".

Extract from letter from Mr. Wilson to the Taoiseach, dated 6th January, 1976.

4. "I refer the hon. Member to the statement that my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made on 12th January, 1976 - [Vol. 903, c. 29] Progress made at my meeting with Mr. Cooney on 8th January is being urgently followed up by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Garda Síochana, and both Governments are making determined efforts to deal with terrorists and to increase the substantial co-operation which already exists."

and

"It would ill-become the United Kingdom Government to insist to the Government of an independent country that co-operation be improved when the co-operation that we get is good."

to  
Reply by Mr. Rees, Parliamentary Question in House of Commons on 19th February, 1976 "whether the Secretary of State has any plans to increase co-operation between North and South across the Border" and to supplementary question.

There have been other references by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Rees, in the House of Commons, expressing admiration for the Government's handling of the Herrema case.