

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



<b>Reference Code:</b>	2009/135/704
<b>Creation Date(s):</b>	7 September 1979
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	2 pages
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
<b>Access Conditions:</b>	Open
<b>Copyright:</b>	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

## AIDE-MEMOIRE

FOLLOW UP TO MEETING BETWEEN THE TAOISEACH AND THE PRIME MINISTER  
AT 10 DOWNING STREET, ON 5 SEPTEMBER

It was agreed that the following suggestions would be actively followed up:-

- (a) Steps to improve the anti-terrorist capability of the Garda in the border area. The recent presence of a special anti-terrorist task force was an example of this.
- (b) Permission be given for RUC officers to interview in Garda stations, and in the presence of Garda officers, persons suspected of terrorist offences in the North. Similar facilities are available to Garda officers in the North.
- (c) The appointment of a Garda Liaison Officer in RUC Headquarters: and of an RUC Liaison Officer at Garda Headquarters.
- (d) Standing authority be given for British helicopters to patrol over the Republic's territory to a depth of 10-15 kilometres. Similar facilities would be made available to the Irish security forces on the northern side of the border.
- (e) Arrangements be made to enable the British and Irish army units in the border area to communicate direct with one another on occasions when there is insufficient time to use established RUC/Garda channels.
- (f) Possible British assistance in Garda training.

In addition, we should like actively to follow up the suggestions below, which have in the past been put by the Chief Constable of the RUC to the Garda Commissioner, namely that the Garda create:

- (i) an anti-terrorist crime squad specifically dedicated to action against terrorists in the border area;
- (ii) a unit capable of carrying out high quality continuous surveillance of suspected terrorists;
- (iii) a uniformed patrol unit allocated fully to anti-terrorist patrols in border areas, and linked with the RUC in coordinated patrolling;
- (iv) a unit to collate criminal intelligence on terrorists.

/It

It was agreed that the Irish Foreign Minister and Minister for Justice should visit London in the first week of October for talks on these points with the Northern Ireland Secretary. The meeting would be attended by the Garda Commissioner and the RUC Chief Constable.

It was also agreed that in the period up to the ministerial meeting in early October neither side would reveal any details of the specific proposals under consideration.

BRITISH EMBASSY

DUBLIN

7 September 1979

(a) Arrangements to be made to enable the British and Irish army units in the border area to communicate directly with one another on occasions when there is insufficient time to use established RUC/Garda channels.

(b) Possible British assistance in Garda training.

In addition, we should like actively to follow up the proposals below, which have in the past been put by the Chief Constable of the RUC to the Garda Commissioner, namely that the RUC create:

(i) an anti-terrorist crime squad specifically dedicated to action against terrorists in the border area;

(ii) a unit capable of carrying out high quality continuous surveillance of suspected terrorists;

(iii) a uniformed patrol unit allocated fully to anti-terrorist patrols in border areas, and linked with the RUC in coordinated patrolling;

(iv) a unit to collate criminal intelligence on terrorists.