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16 Nov 82.



Mr. Mulvaney,
R.7.

Your query re Baton Rounds refers.

1. Four (4) baton rounds have been fired by PDF in riot situations as follows:-

a. Curragh Camp.

During a demonstration at Curragh Camp a section of the demonstrators attempted to break through the perimeter wire. The demonstrators were warned over the loud hailer to desist but continued their action in breaking through the wire. After a second warning failed to stop them one (1) rubber bullet was fired into the ground in front of the demonstrators. This firing halted the demonstrators who withdrew outside the wire and made NO further effort to enter the Curragh Camp.

A potentially violent confrontation between Military personnel and militant demonstrators armed with bricks cudgels etc was thus avoided, the situation defused and possible subsequent use of ball ammunition avoided.

b. Ballina - Stagq Funeral.

During the burial services a large number of those attending the funeral showed hostile intent towards both Gardai and Military personnel who were present. At one stage after the burial a hostile section of the crowd who outnumbered the Garda Force present proceeded to launch an attack on the Gardai. One (1) rubber bullet was fired, the attack was NOT followed through and again the situation was defused and a bitter confrontation which would have resulted in serious injuries to members of the Gardai was averted.

c. Riot Portlaoise Prison.

Subversive prisoners took over the Security Block, barricaded themselves inside and held prison officers hostage. Despite negotiations by the Prison Governor the prisoners refused to take down the barricades but proceeded to wreck the doors of the cells.

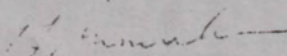
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2.

1. c. (Contd)

To regain control of the Security Block it became necessary to mount an assault. To enable Gardai and Prison Officers to gain access to the block the Military Force gained access through one entrance and fired two (2) rubber bullets. The effect of the firing was dramatic in that the prisoners surrendered peacefully and both Gardai and Prison Officers regained control of the Security Block. Once again a potentially very dangerous situation was defused.

2. In each of the three cases above NO injury was caused by the firing of the rubber bullets. Further, close quarter confrontation between our security forces on the one hand and demonstrators/prisoners on the other was avoided with the inevitable injuries which these confrontations would have caused. In addition the firing of ball ammunition was obviated in all cases.



LT COLONEL

(P.F. MONAHAN)
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