

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

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Size of IRA Arsenal

General

Media reports (attached) indicate the following:

- Most arms are stored in the Republic, with small stocks held in Northern Ireland.

- The IRA has relied primarily on home-made explosives, which usually need a high explosive like Semtex to set them off.

Estimated quantities held according to media reports:

Type	Role	Quantity	Source
Semtex	High explosive	3 tonnes	*The Independent* 7/97[1]
		2.5 tonnes	*Daily Telegraph* 1/96
		3 tonnes	*The Times* 1/96
		2 tonnes	*The Irish News* 1/96
		2 tonnes	*Sunday Tribune* 1/96
Webley .455	revolver	40	*The Independent* 7/97
		100	*Daily Telegraph* 1/96
		100	*The Times* 1/96
AK-47/AKM	assault rifle	600	*The Independent* 7/97
		650	*Daily Telegraph* 1/96
		650	*The Times* 1/96
		1,200	*Sunday Tribune* 1/96
Armalite AR-15	assault rifle	60?	*The Independent* 7/97
7.62mm FN MAG	machine gun	12	*The Independent* 7/97
		12	*Daily Telegraph* 1/96
		12	*The Times* 1/96
12.7mm x 107mm DShK	heavy machine gun	20	*The Independent* 7/97
		20	*Daily Telegraph* 1/96
		20	*The Times* 1/96

[1] *The Independent's* sources were "*Jane's Intelligence Review* and British Intelligence sources"

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Type	Role	Quantity	Source
SAM-7	anti-aircraft missile	1	*The Independent* 7/97
		1	*The Times* 1/96
		20	*Sunday Tribune* 1/96
RPG-7	rocket launcher	40	*The Independent* 7/97
		40	*Daily Telegraph* 1/96
		40	*The Times* 1/96
LPO-50	flame thrower	6	*The Independent* 7/97
Detonators	for use in bombs	600	*The Independent* 7/97

The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform have been requested to supply any available official material on an urgent basis.

Security Section
14 October 1998

cc Mr Brendan Callaghan, D/Justice, Equality and Law Reform

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