

SECRET

PUBLICITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AGAINST TERRORISTS

1. The various newspapers, news sheets and pamphlets circulated by extremist organisations or their supporters are liberally garnished with lies, half truths and material designed to attract sympathy and support for the extremist and terrorism and to delude the sympathisers with those who support law and order that their causes are losing ground.
2. It is therefore worthwhile examining the potential of a strategy of good publicity and well directed psychological attack on terrorists.
3. Questions for consideration are :-
 - (a) What is already being done in this sector by the Army and RUC?
 - (b) Is it sufficient, adequately co-ordinated and related to available intelligence?
 - (c) Is the speed of reaction to specific events fast enough - if not can the effort and reaction speed be improved?
 - (d) Is adequate expertise on the subject available?
 - (e) What are the consequential problems resulting from greater involvement in this form of attack (embarrassment of Government - blow-back by misapplication on bad luck etc) :
 - (f) If there is a prima facie case for further action in this sector by what procedures should a carefully planned strategy be formulated.
4. Possible lines of action could include -
 - (a) Poster Photos of men wanted for questioning (have you seen this man?)
 - (b) Anti IRA posters - maimed children, rioting children, wrecked pubs.
 - (c) Press articles on the IRA as criminals as opposed to earlier concepts of patriots - anti violence - disenchanting extremist recants etc.
 - (d) Press leaks on various matters - false warning of Army searches planned in named areas - money discrepancies in organisation funds - information given by informers, etc.