

3 BRIGADE AREA - POLICE DIVISIONS G, H, J, K, L AND M.

REPORT - APRIL 1978

1. SECURITY

1. 1. Another relatively quiet month, but indications of terrorist intent are still evident and have been practised mainly against Security Forces targets.
1. 2. Commercial targets have been largely ignored and there is increasing confidence in the business community that the worst of the campaign has passed.

2. LOCAL SERVICES

2. 1. Improvement in the security situation is now tending to highlight the poor appearance of many towns and villages where a severe litter problem and the use and misuse of unofficial local rubbish dumps is being aggravated by the uncleared remnants of yesterday's security barriers. A determined drive by District Councils to tidy-up their areas would be generally welcomed by the public, but the cost of this work to Councils seems to be an inhibiting factor.
2. 2. Flooding agricultural land is a problem in some border areas and has arisen in most cases as a consequence of border road closures.

One of the team in response to recent complaints found that the level of Lough More (Monaghan/Tyrone border) had risen by several feet due to the only outlet having been blocked during road cratering operations. With the advice of a Department of Agriculture drainage engineer arrangements were quickly made with Security Forces to alleviate this problem. Other areas with a flooding problem arising from security activity are being investigated.

2. 3. The return of through traffic in towns where there had been security restrictions has led to requests for proper sign-posting of approach roads so that visiting traffic may know that the towns are now open; in not a few cases diversion signs remain extant whilst the reason for the diversion is no longer evident.
2. 4. Inter-community activities continue to prosper in the Craigavon area in spite of the Council's attitude towards Sunday opening of its facilities. Police and Army C.R. has been outstanding in this area.

3. IMPRESSIONS OF PUBLIC FEELING GATHERED BY THE TEAM

3. 1. The 1st Batt. The Parachute Regiment has settled very quietly into South Armagh in direct contrast to the dire predictions made by local politicians before its arrival

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3. 2. One of the leading republican personalities in Crossmaglen remarked to a member of the team on the courtesy shown by the Battalion.
- 3.3. There is very little public comment about the "plight" of the H Block Inmates. Even in strong republican areas apathy is almost total and fund raising and other supportive activity gets daily more difficult. On the other hand many people when they will talk about convicted prisoners express the belief, often with the strongest reservations, that the prisoners, not a united Ireland, are now the 'cause celebre' and unless there can be some additional concessions on sentences P I R A has no choice but to fight on.

4. INCIDENTS DURING MONTH

Shootings	11
Bombs	5
Incendiary devices	1
Demonstrations etc	29
Stone throwing and minor aggro	1

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