

Mr Robinson: 29/4/88
See, thank you. This was done on an "information" basis
is a useful review by the RUC.) note that
29/4/88

Mr Robinson

Mr Robinson would welcome any suggestions for topics for Davidson's notes.

YMF 29/4/88

[Signature]
29/4/88

SECURITY SEMINAR - NEWFORGE LANE - 20 APRIL 1988

1. Threat Assessment

Superintendent Curral opened with a brief outline of the currently perceived threat from paramilitary organisations. Despite a number of recent arms finds the position is much as last reported in February (see Mr Barkley's minute below). Activities aimed at fund-raising and boosting propaganda are to be expected especially from PIRA. Nothing further was reported on the possible resumption of a PIRA-inspired bombing campaign aimed at industrial targets.

2. Security Equipment

We were treated to a talk from John Glen of Radiocontact Limited on security cameras and detector devices; this was a departure from the scheduled lecture. The theme centred on the debate concerning whether solid state or tube cameras now represent the best value for money. It seems that the solid state camera is technically superior and their cost has been falling over the past 18 months to a level where they are now economically competitive with their rivals. I attach a handout on the subject.

On intruder detection systems, a dual system was on display incorporating both passive and microwave components. It was claimed that this type of device has now virtually eliminated false alarms and is quite economical both to purchase and install.

3. Intimidation

This talk by Superintendent Anderson honed in on racketeering and extortion by paramilitary organisations, but primarily the UDA. This is extremely widespread and increasingly sophisticated with a number of "legitimate" businesses now acting as fronts for widescale racketeering. The speaker admitted that a lack of legislative powers

severely hampered the RUC's ability to tackle the problem at its roots and the talk culminated in an appeal to heads of firms to lobby Ministers and public representatives in order that penetrating laws may be brought in.

Whilst this talk was both interesting and informative I found it to be of limited relevance to ourselves, and was primarily aimed at the representatives of commercial firms and companies present.

The next seminar is due to be held in 5 or 6 weeks' time, again at Newforge Lane.



R N DAVIDSON

Security Branch

25 April 1988