

Response by 6/12 of letter.

Police Authority for Northern Ireland



Your ref.

5th Floor, River House
48 High Street, Belfast BT1 2DR
Telephone Belfast 230111

Please reply to The Secretary and Chief Executive

Our ref. PB 380 Date 28 November 1988

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr G Hannigan
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont House
BELFAST



Dear Gus,

EQUIPMENT FOR ENHANCED TRAINED TEAMS

Members of the Authority's Buildings and Supplies Committee have approved a request for the provision of clothing and equipment, estimated at a cost of £370,000, for Enhanced Trained Teams.

The background to the case is that the Chief Constable has decided to form these teams (ETT's) to enhance the capacity of Mobile Support Units to respond to terrorist threat and to mount and as necessary, provide support for covert operations. The personnel involved will be selected from within existing Mobile Support Units; there will be 27 ETT's each with a strength of 15, ie one Inspector, two Sergeants and 12 Constables. The establishment of the ETT's is not intended to replace E4A/Military Units but to complement them by providing covert observation with a 'built-in' self-defence capability. The teams will be deployed in the more difficult inland areas.

The long-term covert observations to be carried out by these teams requires equipment and clothing of a high standard to ensure that personnel are properly camouflaged and weatherproofed. Some of the items on the attached list of equipment requested are already on issue to other Units within the Force; and only a few fall into the 'new' category. Even within that category, rucksacks and sleeping bags have been supplied to other units on at least one occasion previously: we have also provided camouflaged clothing, although not of the "one-piece" oversuit variety shown on the attached list.

The current request is for clothing and equipment for 14 of the 27 ETT's in the present financial year with similar expenditure in 1989/90 - the cost in the 88/89 year will therefore be approximately £185,000.

I am conscious that previous correspondence concerning equipment and clothing for covert teams has been exchanged and Miss Beggs' letter of 4 November 1988 refers. I should therefore be grateful if you could consider this latest request together with the earlier request and if this consideration could be given some urgency.

The RUC have pointed out that deployments such as these ETT's must be kept as secret as possible and are not for discussion outside the circle of those who need to know: I have handled this issue on that basis and am sure that you will also be conscious of the point being made by the Police.

If there is further information you require please let me know.

*Yours
R T*

R T ARMSTRONG
Assistant Secretary

ENHANCED TRAINED TEAMS - EQUIPMENT

| | <u>PER</u> | | | <u>REQUIREMENT</u> | <u>COST EACH</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------------|--|--------------------|------------------|
| | <u>TEAM</u> | <u>LAST ORDER</u> | | | £ |
| 1. Secateurs | 5 | E321 87/88 | | 70 | 1.66 |
| 2. Compass Silva | 3 | PB166 88/89 | | 42 | 10.88 |
| 3. Recorders Pocket Memo | 2 | PB660 88/89 | | 28 | 46.15 |
| 4. Recorders Pocket Memo Cassettes | 6 | PB658 88/89 | | 84 | 1.32 |
| 5. Binoculars 7 x 50 | 4 | E390 87/88 | | 56 | 24.39 |
| 6. Camera Nikon EM 35mm c/w 50mm Lense | 2 | New Model | | 28 | 104.00 |
| 7. Flasks Food | 10 | PB172 88/89 | | 140 | 2.39 |
| 8. Flasks Drink | 5 | PB713 88/89 | | 70 | 14.74 |
| 9. Pocketscope Kite | 2 | PB347 88/89 | | 28 | 3175.00 |
| X 10. Veils Face (Olive Green) | 15 | E624 86/87 | | 210 | 4.89 |
| 11. Pants Long Thermal | 30 | E274 87/88 | | 420 | 6.87 |
| 12. Vests Thermal | 30 | E274 87/88 | | 420 | 6.87 |
| 13. Socks Thermal Prs | 30 | E274 87/88 | | 420 | 1.61 |
| 14. Poncho | 15 | E624 86/87 | | 210 | 11.99 |
| 15. Body Armour Concealed | 15 | PB282 88/89 | | 210 | 191.25 |
| 16. Body Armour Concealed Spare Covers | 15 | PB282 88/89 | | 210 | 28.75 |
| 17. Rucksacks Black | 15 | E595 86/87 | | 210 | 23.00 |
| 18. Rucksacks Oliver Green 70L | 4 | New Item | | 56 | 68.70 |
| 19. Bags Sleeping Outer Green All Weather | 15 | New Item | | 210 | 52.13 |
| 20. Bags Sleeping Inner Green All Weather | 15 | New Item | | 210 | 43.43 |
| X 21. Camouflage Oversuit | 15 | New Item | | 210 | 16.00 |

TOTAL COST = £184,816.52