

SECRET

Army 84 ✓

L119/61

LM to 79/HD/2424/MO3b

Copy No. 1 of 16

Distribution below

IRA Activity in the United Kingdom

Reference 79/HD/2424/MO3b dated 21 February 1966.

As a result of further information it has been thought necessary to alert UK Commands to the growing threat.

Attached, therefore, for your information and further action as necessary is a copy of a recent letter DO/NIR/1/MO3 dated 4 March 1966 sent to Chiefs of Staff, together with a copy of the Assistant Commissioner's letter to which it refers.

Chief of Staff
1 March 66

to
DMO,
3,
Ext: 2011,
7 Mar 66.

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DO/NIR/1/MO3

SECRET

4 March, 1966

I issued recently a memorandum 79/HD/2424/MO 3b of 21st February 1966, on the subject of IRA Activity in the United Kingdom, advising the review of security precautions.

The situation has now become a little clearer and the Assistant Commissioner, New Scotland Yard, has alerted Chief Constables to the growing threat.

What measures should now be taken will naturally vary within Commands but, while I do not for one moment underestimate the threat, I think we should avoid taking steps which are too obvious (and might alarm the public or excite the IRA) or which upset too much the normal routine of life and work in units, depots etc. I would prefer, therefore, to leave it to your discretion rather than issue from here some more formal instruction at this stage. I attach, however, sufficient copies of the Assistant Commissioner's letter for issue down to Districts, in order that any discussions with Chief Constables can start from a common standpoint.

I am copying this letter to all Home Commands.

(Sgd.) R. G. V. FitzGeorge - Balfour.

To Chiefs of Staff all UK Commands,
Copy to Chief of Staff Northern Ireland Command

MO3 Photocopy 1... of 14 copies

Address any reply to
THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OF THE
METROPOLIS, NEW SCOTLAND YARD, S.W.1
quoting —



NEW SCOTLAND YARD,
LONDON,
S.W.1

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S. 400/66/37

TELEPHONE . . . WHITEHALL 1212

SECRET

1st March, 1966

Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioner to inform you that there is very good reason for assuming that the I.R.A. intends to recommence hostilities in Northern Ireland at or about the Easter holiday period (April 1966), this being the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rebellion.

There has been a fairly steady build up of membership during the past year or two; training in military operations, the use of arms, guerrilla tactics etc. has been carried out at camps held secretly in various places in Ireland; the "Army" has at its disposal an adequate supply of arms and ammunition - including 20 m.m. cannon and 3.5 rocket launchers; speeches and other public statements made by leaders of the I.R.A. in the last few months of 1965 have included passages advocating the use of force in Northern Ireland. Reliable sources have reported that the programme of action adopted by the I.R.A. leadership includes kidnapping and assassinating Northern Ireland Ministers and senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers; attacks on 'opportunity' targets (which is believed to mean raids on banks etc. to get funds for the "Army"); cross-Border guerrilla attacks against selected targets in Northern Ireland and, lastly, sabotage of military and industrial targets in Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

There is thus a very real danger that I.R.A. agents may within the next two months attempt to sabotage public or military installations in this country, or to procure arms and ammunition from factories or Service armouries.

There is no doubt that a good deal of attention has been paid during the past two years to potential targets in Great Britain, by way of surveying position and layout. An example is that a detailed analysis of the security arrangements of a small arms factory has recently been ^{found} in the possession of I.R.A. leaders in Ireland.

It may not be possible for this Department to get advance warning of any particular operation in this country but needless to say any information that may be received will at once be communicated to the Chief Constable(s) concerned.

The Armed Services are being informed of the position.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

M. G. G. G.
Assistant Commissioner

To all

~~The~~ Chief Constables.