

CROSS BORDER SECURITY COOPERATION

A: BACKGROUND NOTEImportance of the Border to the Provisional IRA

1. At the February 1992 Summit, Mr Reynolds questioned the extent of PIRA's use of the Republic: "the border is not the problem". Yet the Republic is used by terrorists for training, engineering, storage of arms and ammunition, and as the base for attacks into NI. Five of the eight PIRA Mk 15 mortar attacks in the last 6 months have used vehicles stolen in the Republic. A list of recent incidents mounted from the Republic is attached.
2. Garda successes attached also demonstrate PIRA's exploitation of the Border. The RUC and Garda agree that the bulk of the 1980s Libyan shipments is still in deep hides in the Republic.
3. The Irish sometimes claim that, although the Border is exploited by terrorists, they devote adequate resources to countering this, having doubled the number of Garda in Border Divisions since 1970. Points to make are that:
 - over the same period RUC manpower in Border areas has tripled (from 900 to 3000+) and army deployments have massively increased;
 - there were 25 deaths as a result of the security situation in 1970, compared with 85 in 1992. So, despite the extra resources, the threat has grown further. More still needs to be done.

Chilcot/Dalton Group

4. It was agreed following the Summit with Mr Haughey in December 1991 that a high-level official working group would establish a work programme on cross-border security issues, reporting back any disagreement to the Heads of Government for further discussion. This working group also side-reports to the Intergovernmental Conference (the Irish are eager to maintain the IC's status in this exercise). Papers have recently been exchanged on a number of topics (including the RUC's dedicated anti-terrorist organisation, which we hope the Garda might move towards emulating) and the group will meet again shortly.

CLOSED UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT 2000

CONFIDENTIAL

B: RECENT CROSS BORDER INCIDENTS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Details</u>
Belcoo (Co Fermanagh)	14 November 1992	RUC Constable Alan Corbett (25) shot and killed while manning vehicle checkpoint. Police satisfied firing point was just over Border in Blacklion, Co Cavan.
Ballygawley RUC (Co Tyrone)	6 December 1992	Mk 15 mortar attack. Vehicle used stolen in Co Cavan in the Republic on 30 November.
Mullan Bridge Patrol Base (Co Fermanagh)	8 January 1993	Mortar/machine gun attack on patrol base and Army helicopters - terrorists fired mortar shells and 320 rounds from firing point 2 metres on Northern side of Border, and were then seen escaping into Republic. Garda found discarded magazine and radio south of border.
Clogher RUC (Co Tyrone)	20 January 1993	Mk 15 mortar attack. Vehicle used stolen in Co Cavan on 18 January.
Portadown (Co Armagh)	9 February 1993	Attempted murder of UVF activist by 3 armed men using van stolen in Drogheda on 1 February.
Tempo RUC (Co Fermanagh)	25 February 1993	Mk 15 mortar attack. Vehicle used stolen in Ardee in Republic on 20 February.
Bessbrook RUC (Co Armagh)	1 March 1993	Mk 15 mortar attacks. Vehicles used both stolen in the Republic on 25 January.
Kilturk Patrol Base (Co Fermanagh)	2 April 1993	Machine gun attack. Spent rounds and feed belt for weapon found at firing point 200 m into Republic.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Details</u>
Lismore, Augher (Co Tyrone)	26 April 1993	Explosion at Border during road reclosure by security forces. Command wire led 480m into Republic, where firing pack and timer found.
Loughgall (Co Armagh)	10 May 1993	Find of vehicle adapted for Mk 12 mortar. Stolen in Republic on 4 May.
RUC Caledon (Co Tyrone)	12 May 1993	MK 15 mortar attack. Vehicle used was stolen in Co Cavan in the Republic on 16 February.
Mountcharles, (Co Donegal)	14 April 1993	Gardai discovered mortar and bomb making equipment.
Sally Gap, (Wicklow Mountains)	1 April 1993	2 rockets and a home-made mortar recovered.
Abbeyleix (Leix Carlow border)	3-4 March 1993	Gardai recovered 2 AK 47 assault rifles, and a Uzi sub-machine gun together with other bomb making equipment and 120,000 in stolen cash and cheques.
Blisbock (Co Kildare)	26 February 1993	Explosives, bomb making equipment and a heavy machine gun recovered - Irish described find as "very significant".

The Gardai also made a number of recent arrests of suspected tax-evaders, the most significant being that of Nossan Quinnlivan and Fearce McCauley, both of whom had escaped from HMP Brixton in 1991.

C: RECENT GARDA SUCCESSES

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Details</u>
Manorcunningham (Co Donegal)	25/26 May 1993	Two Mk 15 mortar devices discovered.
Scotstown (Co Monaghan)	19 May 1993	Gardai found a Mk 15 mortar, Semtex and ammunition. One man charged (given bail).
Mountcharles, (Co Donegal)	14 April 1993	Gardai discovered Semtex and bomb making equipment.
Sally Gap, (Wicklow Mountains)	1 April 1993	2 rockets and a home-made mortar recovered.
Abbeyleix (Laois Carlow border)	3-4 March 1993	Gardai recovered 2 AK 47 assault rifles, and a Uzi sub-machine gun together with other bomb making equipment and £20,000 IR in stolen cash and cheques.
Kilcock (Co Kildare)	26 February 1993	Explosives, bomb making equipment and a heavy machine gun recovered - Irish described find as "very significant".

The Gardai also made a number of recent arrests of suspected terrorists, the most significant being that of Nessan Quinlivan and Pearse McCauley, both of whom had escaped from HMP Brixton in 1991.