

SECURITY FORCES AND UDA

The security forces' policy towards the UDA (and CESA) is laid down in an instruction by HQ dated 6 November. A copy is attached. The instruction is confidential and is not passed in writing below battalion level. The RUC have similar instructions.

The main points are:-

- i. Operations against UDA should be directed against their criminal extremist elements whilst making every endeavour to maintain good relations with law abiding citizens in the organisation.
- ii. Contact should be maintained at company commander level with the UDA.
- iii. Unarmed, locally resident vigilante type patrols should be tolerated provided they do not break the law.
- iv. Marauding patrols or barriers on roads should not be tolerated, nor should the harassment of drivers or other members of the public. Persons should be required to discard offensive weapons, including clubs. Masks should be strongly discouraged.

These instructions apply equally to operations against UDA and CESA.

2. The Northern Ireland Office and Ministry of Defence reached the conclusion in September, after consulting the Director of Public Prosecutions, that charges against UDA members for wearing para-military uniforms were unlikely to succeed. The security forces have not, therefore, taken steps against the wearing of uniforms as such. In answer to questions in Parliament about this, the Attorney General has replied that the decision to prosecute depends on the activities at the time of those wearing uniforms.