

SECRET

EB

DUS(Army)/644/72

Reference

LOOSE MINUTE

Head of DS 10

Copies to: DMO
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ARREST POLICY FOR PROTESTANTS

1. Thank you for showing me the paper annexed to your D/DS 10/44/4/3 of 8 December. — E30
2. I agree that the object should simply be to define a category of arrest targets on the Protestant side corresponding to the IRA categories at c. and d. This category should comprise officers and members of Protestant organisations which are not only terrorist but engaged in active terrorism. The latter is a condition which justifies differentiating between the Provisional and the Official IRAs, and should also be the criterion for singling out those Protestants who should fall within the ambit of the arrest policy from those who do not. So far as I am aware, at the present time this means only those Protestants who are officers in or members of the UVF, which is also illegal. If any other Protestant organisation is not only terrorist but engaged in active terrorism, it should be treated, presumably, in precisely the same way as the Provisional IRA and the UVF, and also be declared illegal.
3. In that case I would have thought that the only amendments needed to the existing arrest policy categories would be by way of insertion of "or UVF" after "Provisional IRA" in c. and d. Add in due course "Official IRA" if and when that body in addition to being terrorist and illegal actually resumes terrorist activity. Add also any Protestant organisation in a similar category.
4. This approach should, incidentally, get over the RUC's objection to "Protestant terrorists" - which strikes me as being a valid one at least to the extent that the phrase does require further definition.

31 DEC 1972. Or is this all too simple for some reason which escapes me?

R.C. Kent

R C KENT
DUS(Army)

11 December 1972

see E32

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