

that internment had been introduced to placate extreme Unionists and that in many cases people were being interned simply because they were opposed to Unionism (1).

It is now generally accepted that in many cases in August 1971 persons were arrested, and in some cases also detained, on the basis of inadequate and inaccurate information. (2).

Arrests continued to be made during the rest of the year, partly of persons who had been on the original list, and partly of persons who became subject to suspicion thereafter. It appears that a total of 770 detention orders were made during the year under Regulation 11 (2) and 525 internment orders were made, although a considerably larger number of people were arrested. Thus it seems that some 980 people had been arrested by 10 November. The numbers actually held under detention or internment orders rose steadily to over 500 in December 1971 (3).

e) The situation from 9 August 1971 until 30 March 1972

The introduction of internment provoked a violent reaction from the Catholic community and the IRA. Serious rioting broke out in Belfast and elsewhere and there was a considerable increase in shootings and bombings. In the immediate aftermath barricades were erected in Catholic areas and gun battles took place between the army and the IRA when the army attempted to clear them. The extent of the reaction surprised the authorities (4). In the course of sectarian rioting thousands of people were forced to leave their homes. Many houses were burned, frequently by the occupants who set fire to them on leaving to prevent them from being occupied by members of the opposite community. In the Ardoyne district of Belfast some 200 homes were thus burned by Protestants leaving them and a number by Catholics (5). There was also some shooting between the rival factions in the course of sectarian rioting (6).

Throughout the period from August to December 1971 the numbers of deaths and explosions recorded by the police for each month were higher than in any previous month of the year. A total of 146 people were killed and 729 explosions were caused. Of the 146 persons killed, 47 were members of the security forces and 99 were civilians. Explosions caused

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(1) See e.g. VR 7 pp. 29-30 & 77.

(2) See e.g. The Diplock Report p. 15 para. 32.

(3) VR 10 I p. 132 & Annex p. 15; VR 10 II p. 797; VR 7 p. 34 and Statistics of Monthly Holdings prepared by the applicant Government.

(4) See e.g. VR 10 I pp. 46-47; VR 11 pp. vi-vii.

(5) VR 10 I pp. 120 and 216-217.

(6) VR 10 I p. 379.