

THE SECURITY SITUATION

1. Since the last meeting of the Conference on 11 March public disorder associated with the Loyalist protest against the Angli-Irish Agreement has continued. Serious disorder followed the banning of the Apprentice Boys proposed parade in Portadown on 31 March. The violence spread to other areas of the Province and since then there has been sporadic violence in Loyalist areas almost on a nightly basis.
2. Loyalist intimidation of RUC members and their families, ex-members of the RUC, members of the NI Prison Service and Roman Catholics has been widespread. This has mainly taken the form of petrol bomb and stoning attacks on homes and vehicles. Since 3 March there have been over 346 attacks on the homes of RUC members and 58 police families have been forced to move home. Although the violence has been widespread it is largely the work of hooligans and there is no evidence of central co-ordination or direction. However, there has undoubtedly been some UDA and UVF involvement. The proposed Apprentice Boys march in Portadown on 5 May was cancelled.
3. Most of the traditional Republican Easter marches passed off peacefully. In Londonderry, however, at a Republican plaque unveiling ceremony a soldier was shot and seriously injured. In response to PIRA's campaign of attacks against police stations, and their threats against contractors engaged in work for the security forces the two additional battalions of the Regular Army brought in earlier in the year remain. They continue to be used intensively with the other armed forces in the Province in operations to protect police stations and to mount counter-terrorist patrols. PIRA targeting and attacks on the security forces have continued. 3 members of GUDR in Co Tyrone have been murdered so far this year. A police inspector with a particularly distinguished record and well respected locally by both sides of the community was murdered in Newcastle, Co Down on 23 April.
4. On 6 April an Army patrol confronted 2 armed men at Mullaghglass near Rosslea, Fermanagh. Shots were exchanged; one of the men, Seamus McIlwaine, was shot dead, the other, Lynch, was seriously

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wounded. McIlwaine, a notorious PIRA terrorist murderer had been on the run since escaping from the Maze Prison in September 1983. Two weapons recovered from the terrorists are understood to have been used in a number of serious terrorist crimes.