NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code: 2005/155/6

Creation Date(s): 1 August 1975

Extent and medium: 3 pages

Creator(s): Department of Justice

Access Conditions: Open

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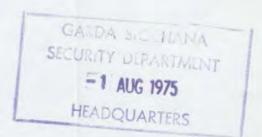
Commissioner, Garda Síochána, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8

and the following number quoted

Je/2042/75

SECRET.

OIFIG AN CHOIMISINEARA. BAILE ATHA CLIATH



Secretary, Department of Justice.

Assessment of security problems consequent on an influx of refugees from Northern Ireland.

- I. I am directed by the Commissioner to refer to your minute of the 14th, July, 1975 in above and to state that only a very general assessment of the problems which might confront us can be made at this stage since, obviously, the numbers and types of refugees arriving will primarily govern the matter and dictate the line of action to be followed by us.
- 2. Refugees in the normal way are usually law abiding citizens fleeing from advancing enemy forces. They are usually happy to be provided with shelter and food supplies on friendly soil until they can return home. A good percentage of those we would be likely to receive from Northern Ireland would not fall into this category. It is an accepted fact that the Queen's Writ does not run in many areas of Northern Ireland and that many Northern Ireland teenagers have known known but violence, indiscipline and destruction for some years past. Refugees from Northern Ireland in the past, limited though their numbers were, showed that they were demanding, indisciplined and destructive, indicating that they felt entitled to the best treatment here while, at the same time showing scant regard for property placed at their disposal. This category alone, while being more of a nuisance value than a serious threat, could make demands resement. on Garda time and divert attention from more important serious work. The Garda Siochana should normally be concerned only with traffic arrangements, etc. while refugees are being moved from one area to another.
- large Scale 3. It can be taken that if there is a large influx of refugees from urbanised areas of Northern Ireland that many of these people will be bitter towards the Northern Ireland Establishment, Gt. Britain and possibly the Republic, depending on the stand taken by the latter in their defence. It can also be taken that a considerable number of refugees will have little regard to the political arguments or considerations which confine defensive activities by the Forces of the Republic to South of the Border. In this context we can expect many problems from refugees from wolence there ordinary criminal activity to armed action inside the Republic, in Northern Ireland and possibly Gt. Britain.
- 4. Refugees will include ordinary criminal elements, fringe members of subversive groups and persons who, because of the injustices suffered, are conditioned for recruitment to the ranks of subversives and activists. After all many Garda Siocham will be persons who have lost all and who have nothing to The IRA would lose in attempting to regain what they have lost by every Tituation means at their disposal

their own a dvantage. R8/8/15.

P.T.O.

It is clear

that any

would pose

and the involvement of/

the Garda Siochana in security matters would be such that normal policing of the country would be practically non-existant. This type of situation would provide opportunity and reduced risk for persons who might otherwise not engage in criminal astivity to commit crime. Even on a return to normality in the political context, the effect of freedom to engage in crime without fear of apprehension would create long term problems for our society which would prove very difficult to correct.

13. In conclusion it can be said that the extent and places of origin of refugee movement into the Republic will dictate the degree of involvement of the Garda Siochana. Small numbers from Belfast or Derry could create much greater problems than larger numbers from rural areas. In a doomsday situation we are likely to have a huge exodus compressed into a short period of time and it is of vital importance that advance planning be so geared that a controlled dispersal policy can be implemented. In such a situation it will be impossible to screen the refugees and failure to prevent mass communes in the border areas could have far reaching consequences as far as the security of the State is concerned.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT.