

File No.

588 / UNREZ / 694 II

Minute
Sheet No.

SB Memorandum

1A

Commander "Ops" (thro' Ch Supt "B" Squad)

1. My initial re-action to this request, particularly with the cease fire becoming even more shaky, was to reject it. However, upon reflection and with a number of built-in safeguards, I think it is a good idea for DC Clark to visit Northern Ireland.

2. Firstly, we now have no SDS in the Irish field and although Big Flame and TOM are not Irish per se they have Irish "Fronts" which could prove a useful stepping stone. Secondly, this invitation to visit the Bogside, Creggan and Markets could also prove useful to other organisations as well as ourselves.

3. To be asked to go on this visit (after such a comparatively short time with these organisations) must reflect well on the officer's acceptance. I, too, am very happy with his performance to date!

4. Probably as important as any other consideration is the fact that DC Clark has discussed this with his wife and senior colleagues and wants to go.

5. In urging your support for this visit, I would say that I think the RUC (say, Det Ch Supts, [1] or [2]) should be notified in advance of this visit; the officer's "stage name", and told that any information deemed to be of interest to them will be reported as soon as possible. DC Clark, on the other hand, should be briefed very thoroughly concerning any action to be taken by him whilst in Ulster.

6. Should authority be given for Clark to visit Northern Ireland and the security situation subsequently deteriorate I would not hesitate to withdraw the officer at the last moment.

7. To enable the officer to make the appropriate arrangements - whichever way it is decided - an early decision would be much appreciated.

HN332

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SB
5.9.75CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT



DAC

R2.
(Chris Cow Rodger)

I have given this proposal considerable thought and have delayed forming an opinion until my return from Belfast.

The proposition is, of course, an attractive one and I am highly impressed by D.C. Clark's willingness to undertake this operation. Nevertheless, I am now of the firm view that the current situation in Northern Ireland is so serious that to allow one of our officer's to visit the areas concerned and, without doubt, mix with Provisional IRA elements, would involve a degree of personal risk which is not acceptable.

I did not raise this issue with ACC Johnston but I have no doubt whatsoever that he would concur with this opinion. If you agree, I suggest Ch. Supt. **HN332** explains the decision to the officer and commends him for his determination.

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[Signature]
Commander

S.B.
10.9.75.

3.

DAC

As you are only too well aware, our joint experience of the members of the SDS over the past years is that they are without exception only too willing to 'have a go' and it does them great credit, to say the least.

Each one of the forays they undertake, however, has to be looked at very quizzically in comparing the intelligence likely to be obtained in the long term against the danger. To run the risk of exposing them for little benefit is pointless. I hate to be an inhibitor of enthusiastic voluntary effort but in this case I believe that the Troops Out Movement and other associated groups do not justify us permitting one of our officers to venture into 'no-go' areas in Northern Ireland and risk his life - for that is what it means should his identity be discovered. On these grounds, therefore, I feel that DC Clark should not be permitted to make the suggested visit.

SB
11.9.75

M.D. Rodger
Commander

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Con Ops

we discussed this & agreed that DC Clark should not travel so far outside [redacted] [redacted]