"You will be responsible to the GOC"

Intelligence Management and the security stovepipe in Northern Ireland, 1968-1974

Cambridge Intelligence History Seminar – 24 Feb 2017

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Job Description I

28 August 1969 – NB Not Passed on to NI Government on orders of Edward Peck – Chairman of JIC.

Intelligence reporting arrangements 1969-72

Security/Operational Intelligence only.

Taken from, Northern Ireland: background brief for CGS', Part III Annex A, April 1971, DEFE 25/304, TNA.

SLO, Directors of Intelligence, Director and Co-ordinator of Intelligence – All Civil Intelligence agencies

• 1966–SLO MI5 – ?
• 1969–70 SLO MI5 - ?
• 1970–SLO MI5 – David Eastwood
• 1970–October 1972 Director of Intelligence, MI5 – David Eastwood
• October 1972–73/74 – Director and Co-ordinator of Intelligence MI6, Frederick Allan Rowley.

David Eastwood, MC, 1919-2010

Frederick Allan Rowley, CMG, OBE, MC, 1922-2014

3. The Director of Intelligence was a comparatively new post and there was no established procedure for how I was supposed to operate. My task was to co-ordinate the intelligence gathering efforts of the various elements of the security forces operating in Northern Ireland at the time. My role was to oversee a department consisting of Security Service and military officers. I had to liaise with the police, and in particular the Special Branch of the RUC. The people in my department both received intelligence from the RUC and obtained intelligence themselves. The intelligence was collated and assessed for inclusion in reports that were then disseminated within Whitehall and the Intelligence Community.

The MI5 SLO became "Director of Intelligence" and operated between the RUC and the Army.

Already Sunday Inquiry – Witness Statement KD_0002 David
The Intelligence Co-Ordinator – Sir Dick White

- Former head of MI5 (1953-56) and MI6 (1956-68)
- Came out of Semi-retirement as Intelligence Co-ordinator under Wilson and Callaghan.

March 1971, Dick White, The Intelligence Co-ordinator reports to JIC on Northern Ireland.

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Political Vs Security/Operational Intelligence in Northern Ireland

- SLO was replaced by political reporting from UKREP after 1969
- UKREPs Oliver Wright, Ronnie Burroughs, Harold Smith
- Deputy UKREP from October 1971 was Frank Steele (MI6)

- Advent of Direct Rule continued requirement for political intelligence
  - Frank Steele remains advisor and is responsible to Frank Cooper.
  - Steele replaced at NIO’s Laneside offices by Michael Oatley and James Allan (on secondment from MI6 and FCO) in 1973.
Secret Intelligence and ‘Parallel Diplomacy’

Complicating the narrative

Expanding the explanation (1970-76)

- October 1972-73/74 – Director and Co-ordinator of Intelligence, Mi6, Frederick Allan Rowley.
- 1974-75 Director and Co-ordinator of Intelligence, Denis Payne (Mi5)