

The International Body

Meeting with Representatives of the Irish Army
January 16, 1996
Dublin

Summary

Representatives of the Irish Army told the International Body that the Army assists the Garda, responsible for internal security of the country, under certain circumstances; stated that Army estimates of IRA weapons stocks generally track with those of the Garda and the RUC; and reviewed various methods of disposition and destruction of decommissioned weapons.

Account of Meeting

General explained that the Garda is responsible for the internal security of the Republic, but since the Garda is unarmed, the army provides assistance under certain circumstances such as escort of prisoners and implementation of border controls.

A number of possible decommissioning alternatives were reviewed: notification of the location of weapons caches to nominated persons; abandonment of weapons sites with subsequent notification to nominated persons; destruction by the paramilitaries themselves with appropriate verification; hand-in of weapons to nominated persons; and purchase of weapons subject to decommissioning.

The army could assist in the protection of individuals, the movement of ammunition, the cataloguing of weapons, etc. Actual disposal of weapons could be accomplished by cutting and breaking, chipping, firing of ammunition, and controlled demolition of munitions.

The Garda believes that the IRA's stock of weapons is larger than we estimate (a difference of 10% accounted for by varying analyses of what has been used or lost over time). But in general, Irish Army and Garda/RUC estimates of IRA weapons inventories are roughly the same.