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NORTHERN IRELAND: CURRENT SITUATION REPORT NO 12 -
11 NOVEMBER 1971

INCIDENTS IN THE LAST 24 HOURS

There were 2 shooting incidents and one bomb attack during the last 24 hours in Belfast.

2. There were 2 small searches in the Andersonstown area which led to the discovery of bomb-making equipment and GPO monitoring equipment. The GPO equipment consisted of two tapping telephones and a monitoring set (thought to be a tape recorder).

3. In Londonderry an explosion caused heavy damage to a factory. There were no casualties.

4. Another woman was shaved in Londonderry during the night.

5. At Coalisland a mobile patrol of 42 Commando RM was ambushed with a claymore mine. There were no casualties.

6. In Pomeroy armed men stole £1800 from the Ministry of Health and Social Security.

7. There were 9 wanted and 6 routine arrests yesterday.

The Border

8. Following his visit to Northern Ireland CGS will be submitting a report on the various border issues which will be considered in the first instance at next Monday's meeting of the Defence Secretary's departmental committee on Northern Ireland.

Issue of Pistols

9. Headquarters Northern Ireland have submitted a case for the issue of 1100 pistols for the purpose of self-protection to the heads of Army families living in remote areas. The case will be put to Ministers for their approval.

Armed Robberies

10. There has been a ^{dramatic} decline in the number of armed robberies since the incident at Newry on 23 October. In the first quarter /of this

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of this year there were 13 armed robberies; in the second quarter 27; in the third 99; and in the first 3 weeks of October 43. Since the Newry incident there have been only 10.

11. It is difficult to make much public use of this information at the moment because of the uncertainty about the legality of the soldiers' action in firing at the men attempting to rob the bank. It is still not known whether the police and DPP will seek to bring a prosecution. In the meantime enquiries are being dealt with on the lines that the military investigation into the incident has been completed and the results made known to the police. The incident is likely to be raised in the forthcoming debate in the Commons on Northern Ireland and this might be an opportunity to make known that one effect of averting the intended robbery at Newry appears to have been to reduce greatly the number of armed robberies throughout Northern Ireland.

The Arrest of 2 IRA Men in Belfast

12. The PR follow-up in Belfast to the arrest of two leading members of the IRA during Tuesday's search in the Ardoyne has been very successful. The 2 men are now in the hands of the CID team from Scotland Yard. There is no intention at present to interrogate them in depth for intelligence purposes.

Tarring and Feathering of Women

13. The press accounts of the recent incidents in Londonderry in which 2 women have been shaved and tarred and feathered have been effective anti-IRA propaganda. It is significant that when the press tried to photograph the woman who was shaved last night officers of the Provisional IRA appeared and ordered them from the scene.

Brigadier Kitson

14. There have recently been a number of personal attacks in the press and elsewhere on Brigadier Kitson, the Commander of 39 Brigade, who is an expert on counter-insurgency. Some action has been taken

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