



eolas — information

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CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION

THE DECEMBER 1987 issue of SAOIRSE—Irish Freedom first broke the story of search and surveillance equipment loaned by the British Army to the Special Branch in the 26 Counties.

The reality of the Hillsborough Deal as a basic British security pact now stands exposed. Talk of 'improving the standard of justice' etc. is just political camouflage.

The facts are:

1. British bomb disposal teams have been coming south of the Border for over a year now.
2. British armed helicopters can now overfly the 26 Counties with impunity. This was one of the issues which caused Mr. Jack Lynch to be toppled as head of the Dublin Government in 1979, making room for the present incumbent, Mr. Haughey.
3. According to the IRISH PRESS the British Army is allowed to cross the Border "during particular operations". So much for the much-vaunted sovereignty and neutrality of the 26-county state.
4. The Irish people are now being told that "items up for discussion" at the Anglo-Irish conference include "co-ordinated patrols on both sides of the border with either shared communications or a joint-operations commander". While health, education and social welfare spending is cut to the bone "money is not a problem" for collaboration with the British which is stated to "have reached an unprecedented high in recent months".

Republican Sinn Féin, in its statement of November 22 last to Comhairle Uladh — distributed in leaflet form in all 32 counties — said that far-reaching aims of British policy in Ireland were agreed at Hillsborough two years ago.

These include political extradition, full integration of the 26-county forces into the British war machine in the Six Counties, and especially to bring the Free State forces into conflict with Republicans.

Much of this has now been secured. How long will it be — if the present hysteria is maintained — until there is a free-fire zone on both sides of the border with the media excluded from the area, just as in South Africa, or to come nearer home, on the lines of what existed in Co. Kerry in 1922-23?.

The Irish people are entitled to answers to these questions. It is significant that despite SAOIRSE's revelations of some of this, the daily press and media generally did not carry it until three days after Leinster House had adjourned again for five weeks.