

GENERAL URGES ARMY TO TAKE CONTROL IN BRITAIN: "THIS IS WAR"

April 16— Plans to turn Great Britain into an armed camp were publicized by a retired British general, former Allied Commander-in-Chief in Northern Europe and veteran of counterinsurgency campaigns in Malaya and Borneo.

In an April 15 interview with the **Daily Express** on the IRA terrorist situation, Sir Walter Walker stated bluntly: "This is war. We are on active service the same way we were in Cyprus, Malaya, Borneo, and against the Mau Mau. It makes me so angry that we've learned to do this and because it's across the water we refuse to apply the principle we know should be applied."

Walker was trained by Brigadier General Frank Kitson, whose low-intensity counterinsurgency plans are nearing the final stages prior to full military rule in Northern Ireland. Calling for outright military government and totally discrediting the Labour government, Walker asserted: "The preliminary disaster took place when Whitehall took charge of Ireland. What we should have done is acted in the same way we did in the Malayan emergency...give the army over-all power.... If Ulster has become another Aden, Malaya or Borneo, as some people sincerely believe, should not the Army be given the freedom it had, with such success, in those areas?"

As to whether British society would accept such colonial tactics, Walker continued: "Why should that make any difference?... We've tried everything and the politicians have made a mess of the whole thing.... We must put in a Director of Operations with over-all power...introduce curfews...identity cards...capital punishment."

The **Express** comments on all this: "The important aspect of General Walker's plan is that the director of operations should be able to manoeuvre his forces as he sees fit and not have to make constant reference to political masters."

Military Expands Presence in Response to Increased Terrorist Activities

April 17—The past few weeks have seen a steady build-up of military presence in Britain:

•Headlines in the British press April 17 centered on the murder of Kenneth Lennon, who was on the verge of exposing the role of British Intelligence in the IRA. Police claimed that a "Mafia-style execution squad" assassinated him. Lennon, however, told friends and a lawyer that he was afraid for his life because the Special Branch had pressured him into becoming an informer. According to Lennon, police instructions for his assignment to illegal IRA activities in Luton were that: "I should egg them on."

Police moved the search for the execution squad to London and its suburb Surrey. The Special Branch and the aptly named Murder Squad searched pubs in Luton and raided the homes of IRA sympathizers.

•In a curious escape incident at Long Kesh, the maximum-security prison for IRA detainees, April 14 a top IRA leader switched places with a paroled prisoner released to get married and walked out with no problems. Ivor Bell, called "faceless" because he disguised himself from his own men, escaped despite

sophisticated surveillance and the prison's electrical warning system, which sets off rockets.

•Firebombs exploded April 6 in London, Manchester and Birmingham, according to a Reuters report out on the wires at 3 p.m. that day (London time). In what appears to be coordinated management of the news, no word of the Saturday bombings—except for a two-sentence note in the **Sunday Express**—appeared in the British papers. The Irish and American press carried the story on Sunday. By Monday, when the British papers broke the story, the IRA was named as the probable source of the incidents.

•Attempting to generate in Britain the same kind of hysteria that permits total militarization, and playing on British xenophobia, General Walker wrote a letter to the editor of London's reactionary **London Telegraph** April 15: "The IRA is heavily infiltrated by Marxists, whose self-declared aim is to subvert Ireland and convulse Britain. Indeed, Ireland is but a pawn in the Soviet power struggle... Russia's aim is to get the British Army out, then to establish a firm revolutionary base from which to conduct operations in England itself."

•On March 16 the army announced a new "shoot to kill" course for all personnel to be based on techniques of urban fighting practices in Northern Ireland.

•In early March a busload of soldiers returning to base was blown up, precipitating another round of massive searches in the Manchester area. The search for the alleged bombers was rekindled with a warning last week for citizens to watch their neighbors for any suspicious activities.

•In early and middle February, house-to-house searches took place in the Manchester and London metropolitan areas, the two most industrialized sections of Britain. This activity came after the **London Times** had warned its readers that British subjects would have to get used to the same kind of security measures used in Belfast and Dublin.

•Also in early February, Prestwick, Glasgow and Edinburgh airports, all located in Scotland's industrial belt, were surrounded following rumors of imminent "terrorist" attacks.

Intercontinental Militarization

There is no doubt that the escalation of militarization in Britain is being monitored on an international level. Under the pretence of cracking down on drug rings, leading detectives from Interpol countries met in Paris last month.

This month, Scotland Yard is organizing a conference on kidnapping. Among the participants will be FBI agents who are "familiar" with the Patricia Hearst case, and Italian detectives who worked on the John Paul Getty kidnapping. Scotland Yard revealed the purpose of this meeting: "Its main function will be to pool ideas and perfect a universally recognized drill to combat the crime."

The reported discovery in Southampton April 5 of a shipment of arms allegedly for the IRA provoked another international police meeting on smuggling this month. The Dartline's America, which supposedly conveyed the arms shipment from Canada and the U.S.,

arrived at Southampton March 14, according to a Reuters report (and confirmed by Dart Containerline).

The arms were found three weeks later when troops searched the dock area to check on reported Arab terrorist activity. The America's containerized cargo had to pass through both Antwerp and U.S. Customs inspections before arrival at Southampton. Two Canadian nationals are being investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in connection with the arms smuggling, although according to Dart Containerline, the America did not stop in Canada.

Background on Terrorist Build-Up In Northern Ireland

April 10 — The fact that the Belfast and British population — and the Labour government — accept without resistance the 12-foot "Warsaw Ghetto" wall that the army is constructing around central Belfast indicates the success of the three-and-one-half year counterinsurgency campaign in Northern Ireland. There is now no organized force in Ulster except the army, and the army is prepared to take over.

The first phase of the army's psychological warfare runs from before the introduction of British troops to the fall of 1970, which saw the opening of Long Kesh internment and brainwashing selection center. Long Kesh was established in the aftermath of "Operation Motorman"— the army move into Catholic neighborhoods which resulted in the internment of most of the IRA leaders.

That period was marked by one consistent pattern.

The army never had enough troops of the right quality to actually deal with mass situations! That was no accident. Catholic and Protestant populations, still riding at that point on the crest of mass strike ferment, were "funneled" by the army's tactics into the arms of the IRA and extremist Protestant groups, such as the Vanguard Movement and the Loyalists. Concomitantly, all other political formations, like the unionists, were discredited and fractured.

During the same period the British military, using its agents in the Republic, established the Provisional IRA. This was not only a handy vehicle for terrorist operations. It ensured that there would be no nominally pro-working-class all-Ireland movement to take leadership of the struggle.

Discrediting Politics

In the fall of 1970 the ferment was ebbing. Army strategists like Kitson, who was at that point in charge of operations in Belfast, picked off the by now visible and vulnerable political leaderships, and then proceeded to develop the full potential of the community self-policing which had been established in major urban areas.

This phase, which lasted until the Sunningdale talks of this year, effectively saw the province turned into an army training ground while the process of discrediting political institutions and politicians was allowed to continue. It was the same process that saw the development of the Provisional IRA, as the mass Vanguard movement was counter-organized into the Ulster Defense Association, which in turn became the Ulster Volunteer Force.