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Gardai bring in top unit

By **EUGENE PHELAN**

adopting a new strategy to counter criminal gangs.

"Operation Mid-West" was mounted yesterday and it is being overseen by Chief Supt Michael Fitzgerald, head of the Limerick Garda Division.

The operation has had instant success with the arrest of two Cork criminals at a road checkpoint on its first day.

in circulation around the Christmas and what we are trying to do is ensure that everyone can operate as normal and enjoy the festivities," said Chief Supt. Fitzgerald.

It is understood that the special operation will continue up to and after the Christmas period.

Harris is proud of his city



Mayor of Limerick, Alderman Jim Kemmy chatting to Richard Harris at the City Hall yesterday.

By **EUGENE PHELAN**

SIXTY-five-year-old Richard Harris toured new look Limerick yesterday and described the city as "absolutely gorgeous."

The famous Limerick actor paid a surprise visit

to Mayor Jim Kemmy at City Hall and looked refreshed as he looked over the balcony of the mayor's office onto the river Shannon.

And he described media jibes of "stab city" as extremely annoying. "Like I said on the Gay Byrne Show per capita of population there is no more crime in Limerick than anywhere else," he added.

Recalling his days as a

youth in Limerick he said that there was always prejudice against Limerick for some reason or other.

Rugby players like Paddy Reid and Tome Clifford had to wait ages before getting the recognition they deserved on the Irish team.

And the same was happening today, he said, despite the fact that Limerick teams had won the All Ireland rugby league four times.