

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable the  
House of Commons dated 31st July, 1974 for

**Report to the  
Home Secretary from the  
Commissioner of Police of  
the Metropolis on the Actions  
of Police Officers concerned  
with the Case of  
Kenneth Joseph Lennon**

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*Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed  
31st July, 1974*

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LONDON  
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

## FOREWORD

In a statement to the House of Commons on 2nd May about the case of Mr. Kenneth Joseph Lennon, the Home Secretary referred to the report which he had received from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis on the actions of Special Branch and other police officers concerned with the case, and announced his intention of publishing the report when appeals pending before the courts by certain persons with whom Mr. Lennon had associated had been concluded. Those appeals have now been determined, and the report is accordingly published in this Paper.

The following documents are appended to the report:

*Appendix A*—the statement sent to the Home Office by the National Council for Civil Liberties;

*Appendix B*—a transcript of Mr. Grant's notes of his interview with Mr. Lennon;

*Appendix C*—the passage in the Home Office Consolidated Circular on Crime and Kindred Matters to which reference is made in paragraph 110 of the report.

November, 1974



## Commissioner

1. On Saturday 13th April 1974, at about 10.30 a.m., the body of *Kenneth Joseph LENNON* (born at Newry, Northern Ireland, on 8.12.1943) was found face-downwards in a ditch at Park Road, Banstead, Surrey. He had been shot twice in the head and once in the neck. The body showed no signs of further violence.

2. On Tuesday 16th April 1974, the National Council for Civil Liberties published a "statement" purporting to have been made by Lennon to *Mr. Lawrence GRANT*, the Council's Senior Legal Officer, at his office at 186 Kings Cross Road, W.C.1, on Wednesday 10th April 1974. The implications in the statement, and of subsequent comments on it, by the Council's General Secretary, *Mr. Martin LONEY*, were that Special Branch officers:

- (i) Had pressured Lennon into becoming an informant by the threat of bringing criminal proceedings against him for his part in the Civil Rights disturbance at Newry in 1969, and his sister for her political involvement.
- (ii) Had thereby forced him to become an "agent provocateur".
- (iii) Having recruited Lennon, failed to make proper provision for his safety.
- (iv) Were directly responsible for his death, or their actions had indirectly contributed to this.
- (v) Having induced him to act as an informant whereby he was arrested, conspired with other police officers to manipulate the evidence to secure his acquittal.

3. As the result of the public interest which these matters aroused, the Home Secretary discussed the case with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and the Deputy Assistant Commissioner in charge of Special Branch on 17th April 1974. The Commissioner stated that he would welcome an opportunity to give a full account of the actions of Special Branch and other police officers concerned with the case and agreed to prepare a detailed report as a matter of urgency. The Chief Constables of the West Midlands Police Force (which now includes the former Birmingham City Police Force) and Bedfordshire and Luton Constabulary (now Bedfordshire Police)—whose connection with this enquiry becomes apparent later—readily agreed to provide facilities for the report to embrace not only matters affecting the Metropolitan Police but to deal with the actions of officers of their respective Forces.

4. It will be appreciated that within the time limit laid down for completion of the report it has not been possible to interview all the individuals concerned and of necessity the enquiry has had to be confined to detailed examination of the case papers and police records relevant to the matters in question, together with discussions with the senior police officers concerned. It has also been necessary to keep in mind the enquiry being conducted by Detective Chief Superintendent Hiller of "Z" Division into the murder of Lennon, and particular care has been taken not to prejudice his investigation. The report which follows is in two parts.

5. *Part 1* is a chronological narrative of police involvement with Lennon. This account is based almost entirely on written reports, memoranda, telephone messages and other records, the majority of which were made at the time, or shortly after the events and which can if necessary be produced.

6. *Part 2* deals with the typewritten, unsigned statement of Kenneth Lennon, produced by the National Council for Civil Liberties and the original notes bearing Lennon's signature made by Mr. Grant—from which he asserts the published statement was composed—and the implications arising therefrom. Although in its original form the typed statement's paragraphs were not enumerated, numbers have now been added to facilitate ease of reference.

## PART 1

7. At about 3.50 p.m. on Friday 27th July 1973, a telephone call was received in Information Room, New Scotland Yard, by *Police Constable 384 CO EDWARDS*, from an anonymous male person who said that he wished to speak to someone in Special Branch about matters of a political nature. He said he would wait in the cafeteria at St. Pancras Railway Station for about half an hour and then leave. Although the caller, who spoke with an Irish accent, would not give his name, he gave his description and said he was accompanied by a young female.

8. This message was immediately relayed to Special Branch and *Detective Constables DWYER and TURNER* were directed by *Detective Inspector WICKENS* to go to St. Pancras Station to make contact with the caller.

9. Detective Constable (now Detective Sergeant) Dwyer, in a report dated 30th July 1973, gave a full account of the meeting. He stated that he and Detective Constable Turner duly made contact with the man at St. Pancras Station at 4.45 p.m. and that the latter refused initially to identify himself or the young girl who was with him.

10. He told the officers that he had information to impart about the I.R.A. which he was prepared to divulge for payment. Eventually, after a lot of hedging, he identified himself as Lennon and then disclosed that he lived at 25 Francis Street, Luton—the girl accompanying him being his 8-year old daughter. He said he was unemployed and had come to London to visit his sick wife who was a patient in the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Finchley, N.2. Lennon then volunteered the information that there was a team of five Provisional I.R.A. men living in the Luton area who had received orders from Ireland to mount a campaign in England "to shock the world". The first stage of the campaign was due to take place on 9th August 1973 when a high-ranking British Army Officer was to be abducted and later murdered. This act would be preceded by an armed robbery at a Working Men's Club somewhere in Luton on Sunday 5th August 1973, the proceeds of which would be used to finance the assassination. He added that the men were extremely determined, and whilst their efforts thus far had been confined to selling Irish publications and collecting funds, they were in possession of six shotguns and 300 rounds of ammunition.

11. Lennon was not prepared to divulge the names of the individuals concerned at that stage but as an indication of his good faith he did proffer the information that one of them had recently stood surety for a man arrested in