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From 138/89

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Subject :

Text of Press Release of Federal Attorney General  
re M. Gough and Hanratty.

May Fax 136/89 refers.

Please copy to Gillon A.I. Dir.

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DER GENERALBUNDESANWALT  
BEIM BUNDESGERICHTSHOF

- Pressestelle -



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PRESSEMITTEILUNG

PRESS RELEASE

Botschaft von Irland  
z. Hd. Frau Walter  
Bonn  
Telefax 373500

Der Generalbundesanwalt teilt mit:

The Federal Attorney General releases  
the following communication:

The Federal Attorney General has indicted

1. the British citizen Terence Gerard McGeough,  
born on 2nd September 1958 in Carrycastle, Dungannon  
County Tyrone (Northern Ireland),
2. the British citizen Gerard Thomas Hanratty,  
born on 26th January 1959 in Belfast (Northern Ireland),

in the bill of indictment dated 16th May 1989 before the  
5th High Criminal Court at the Higher Regional Court  
Düsseldorf for suspected joint attempted murder (the  
accused McGeough in three cases, the accused Hanratty in  
two cases) and other criminal offences.

In the meantime the bill of indictment has been served  
upon the accused.

The accused are suspected of being members of the terrorist  
organization Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) that  
exists in Northern Ireland.

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In pursuit of their political goal, namely the establishment of a socialist republic in a united Ireland and a complete separation from the United Kingdom, the members of the PIRA, who are recruited from the Catholic minority in the population, perpetrate above all murder attempts and bomb attacks on prominent Protestants in Northern Ireland, and soldiers of the British Army engaged in Northern Ireland. However, the terrorist activities of the PIRA are not restricted to Great Britain and Ireland; on the contrary, from the beginning the PIRA has also carried out attacks on British military personnel and installations on the Continent.

The PIRA came into existence in 1969/70 when it split away from the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the militant Catholic resistance movement that had been fighting for a united Ireland and a complete separation from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland since 1916. The PIRA generally refers to itself as the "IRA", since it claims to be its true successor.

The accused are charged with having taken part in the following attacks, for which the PIRA has itself claimed responsibility:

- On 23rd March 1987 members of the PIRA carried out a bomb attack on an officers' mess at the NATO Headquarters "Joint Headquarters" in Mönchengladbach-Rheindahlen to which the headquarters of the British Army of the Rhine and the Royal Air Force Germany belong in particular. Thirty-six people were injured when the device that had been concealed in a car parked next to the mess exploded;

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In addition, damage amounting to approximately 2 million marks was caused. The accused McGeough is charged with having supplied the car that the bomb was hidden in, as well as an additional car that was used for preparing the attack, while knowing the purpose for which they were intended.

- On 13th July 1988, with the co-operation of the accused McGeough and Hanratty, unknown members of the PIRA detonated two explosive devices that had been placed against the outside wall of soldiers' quarters at the British Glamorgan Barracks in Duisburg-Wanheim. As a result, ten of the 61 soldiers sleeping in the quarters at the time of the explosion were injured. Damage amounting to almost 2 million marks was also caused.

After the attack at Glamorgan Barracks the accused McGeough and Hanratty and the other perpetrators drove away from the scene of the crime in a car with a false Dutch registration number. In the Beim Knevelshof road in Duisburg the car, which was driving at excessive speed, attracted the attention of a radio patrol which took up the pursuit. When the patrol car that was manned with one police officer was able to catch up within about 130 yards due to roadworks, several well-aimed bursts of fire from two AK 47 Avtomat-Kalaschnikova automatic rifles were fired out of the getaway car at the officer.

When the accused McGeough and Hanratty were arrested on 30th August 1988 near Waldfeucht-Brüggelchen, after crossing the border between Holland and Germany in a car that the accused McGeough had hired by presenting forged identifica-

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tion documents, they had two AK 47 Avtomat-Kalashnikov automatic rifles with them, among other weapons. One of these rifles was the one used during the car chase in Duisburg. In addition, the accused were in possession of the two false Dutch number plates that were on the car that the perpetrators escaped in after the attack at Glamorgan Barracks.

The accused McGeough and Hanratty have been remanded in custody since 31st August 1988, when warrants were issued for their arrest by the Preliminary Proceedings Judge at the Federal Supreme Court.

The Federal Attorney General has taken charge of the prosecution of the criminal offences in accordance with section 120, paragraph 2, no. 2 and 3 of the Judicature Act; the case is one of special importance in the sense of these provisions, particularly on account of the large number of victims who were supposed to be murdered in the course of a large-scale PIRA attack offensive on one of the most important partners of the Federal Republic of Germany in the NATO Alliance.