



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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24/04/89

TO HQ FROM PARIS
FOR DICK O'BRIEN FROM HOLMES

PLS COPY TO JUSTIN DILLON

PSM/PSL/bw Nally
cc: Mr Gallagher

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24/4

Mr L. O'Toole

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AS YOU ARE AWARE FRENCH RADIO AND TELEVISION DURING THE WEEKEND REPORTED THE ARREST OF THREE LOYALISTS IN PARIS AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO HAND OVER MILITARY MATERIAL TO A SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMAT. RADIO AND TELEVISION ON SATURDAY REPORTED THAT THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED THE PREVIOUS DAY AND ON SUNDAY REPORTED THEIR CHARGES THAT MORNING. THE REPORTS WERE GENERALLY LESS DETAILED THAN THOSE CARRIED ON THE BBC AND DID NOT NAME THE INDIVIDUALS, WHO, OF COURSE, WOULD NOT BE KNOWN IN ANY WAY TO THE FRENCH PUBLIC. THE ONE POINT IN FRENCH REPORTS NOT REFERRED TO BY THE BBC IS THAT THE ACCUSED WERE CHARGED BY INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATE JEAN-LOUIS BRUGUIERE, THE JUDGE WHO HANDLES INVESTIGATION OF TERRORIST CASES INCLUDING THE EKSRUND AND ACTION DIRECTE.

THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS ALL CARRY REPORTS OF THE ARRESTS. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED BY FAR THE MORE DETAILED REPORT IS THAT IN LIBERATION BY SURJ CHALANDON, TOGETHER WITH STEPHEN SMITH, WHILE THE OTHER NEWSPAPERS MERELY CARRY BRIEF AND UNSIGNED REPORTS.

LIBERATION DESCRIBES THE SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMAT, DANIEL STORM, BEING SURPRISED IN THE HILTON ON FRIDAY MORNING AS PIECES FOR THE BLOWPIPE SYSTEMS-TO-AIR-MISSILE WERE BEING HANDED OVER. THE ARRESTS WERE MADE BY THE FRENCH INTERNAL SECURITY AGENCY, LA DIRECTION DE LA SURVEILLANCE DU TERRITOIRE (DST), THEIR AGENTS DISGUISED AS HOTEL PERSONNEL. THE NEWSPAPER NAMES THE THREE LOYALISTS, THE DIPLOMAT AND THE AMERICAN FROM GENEVA, DOUGLAS BERNHART. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE THREE AS BELONGING TO ULSHER RESISTANCE AND REPORTS THE ORIGINS OF THE MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY FAISLEY AND ROBINSON. CHALANDON RECALLS NOEL LITTLE LEADING MARCHES AGAINST THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT AND DESCRIBES HIM AS THE "DEMARCHEUR" (CANVASSER OR LOBBYIST) OF ULSHER RESISTANCE ON THE CONTINENT SINCE 1987. HE QUOTES SECURITY SOURCES INDICATING THAT LITTLE ENTERED INTO CONTACT WITH BERNHART IN NOVEMBER LAST AND DESCRIBES BERNHART AS BEING A KNOWN GO-BETWEEN FOR SOUTH AFRICA. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE BLOWPIPE SYSTEM AND QUOTES MILITARY SOURCES SAYING IT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO UNITA AS WELL AS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

THE ARTICLE RECALLS THE AFFAIR WHICH CAME TO LIGHT IN MARCH OF A FALSE CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF FIFTY FRENCH MISTRAL MISSILES TO THE CONGO. LIBERATION RECALLS THAT THE FORGED SIGNATURE OF THE CONGOLESE HEAD OF SECURITY HAD BEEN CONSIDERED AT THE TIME A COVER FOR RE-EXPORT TO THE SOVIET UNION BUT THAT, OF COURSE, THE MISTRAL COULD HAVE BEEN OF GREATER INTEREST TO PRETORIA. CHALANDON MAKES THE POINT THAT THE ONE PERSON CHARGED IN THAT AFFAIR, THE FRENCHMAN THEIRRY MIALLIER, IS KNOWN AS A CONTACT MAN FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

RETURNING TO THE CURRENT AFFAIR THE ARTICLE RECALLS THE THEFT OF A DEMONSTRATION MISSILE ON THE NIGHT OF 7/8 APRIL IN NEWTOWNARDS AND SAYS THAT SAMUEL QUINN COMES FROM THAT AREA. IT ALSO RECALLS THAT PIECES FROM THE BLOWPIPE MISSILE AND OTHER MATERIALS WERE DISCOVERED LAST NOVEMBER IN MARKETHILL NOT FAR FROM NOEL LITTLE'S HOME. IT ALSO RECALLS THE THEFT OF ANOTHER MISSILE FROM SHORT BROTHERS ON 3 NOVEMBER 1988 AND CHALANDON SAYS THAT SHORTS HAS MORE THAN AN EIGHTY PERCENT PROTESTANT WORKFORCE IN ORDER TO PREVENT REPUBLICAN INFILTRATION. HE CONCLUDES THAT THE MILITARY MATERIALS WERE PROBABLY BEING GIVEN TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN EXCHANGE FOR SMALL ARMS OR FUNDS. HOWEVER HE ALSO RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ENTIRE OPERATION COULD HAVE BEEN SET UP AS A PROVOCATION BY EXTREMISTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (DMIS). HE SAYS IT WAS ABSURD FOR THE TRANSACTION TO TAKE PLACE IN THE HEART OF PARIS AND THAT THE AFFAIR COULD CAUSE POLITICAL DAMAGE NOT ONLY IN FRANCE BUT ALSO IN BRITAIN SINCE MRS THATCHER'S GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE RECENT RENEWAL OF DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN MOSCOW AND PRETORIA.

THE OTHER NEWSPAPERS CARRY MUCH BRIEFER REPORTS. LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS ACCOMPANIES ITS SHORT PIECE BY A PHOTOGRAPH OF LITTLE, DRESSED IN PARAMILITARY UNIFORM. THE PAPER REPORTS, AS DO THE OTHERS, THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS SAID THAT THE DIPLOMAT INVOLVED IS THE SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATION.

LE MONDE'S SUNDAY/MONDAY EDITION CARRIES A BRIEF REPORT WITH THE SAME FACTS BUT IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT THIS AFTERNOON'S EDITION WILL CARRY A MUCH FULLER AND WELL-INFORMED ACCOUNT, WHICH I WILL REPORT TO YOU.

DANIEL STORM IS DESCRIBED IN LIBERATION AS HAVING SERVED IN THE PARIS EMBASSY FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS AS PART OF THE MISSION'S ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF.

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