



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Leaks of Security Force Intelligence to Loyalist Paramilitaries

In response to growing public concern, on 14 September the RUC Chief Constable announced the appointment of Mr John Stevens, Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, to investigate the theft of a document listing IRA suspects from Dunmurry RUC station. The inquiry was also to embrace the current RUC investigations into the report by BBC journalist, Chris Moore, that classified RUC material had been shown to him by the UFF, and into the theft of a document from Ballykinlar UDR base. Since the appointment of the Stevens Inquiry, there has been a flood of further leaks bringing the total so far to at least 19 reports of leaks involving some 500 IRA suspects. The scope of the inquiry was broadened to include the subsequent leaks as they became known and on 28 September the number of staff working on the inquiry was increased from 15 to 19. A further twist was added to the controversy with the report in The Independent on 23 September by David McKittrick that details of 25 suspects living in the south had been delivered to him. The following is a chronology of the reports of leaks from 28 August 1989.

- 29.8.89 BBC journalist Chris Moore reveals that he had been shown files (apparently RUC Special Branch files) which had come into the UFF's possession "because of a breach of security at security forces bases". He was also shown a video showing other IRA suspects, taken in what appeared to be a briefing room. The UFF showed the material to Mr Moore to justify the murder of Loughlin Maginn.
- 10.9.89 It is confirmed that a document listing 9 IRA suspects had disappeared from Ballykinlar UDR base.
- 14.9.89 It is announced that a photomontage of IRA suspects had been stolen from a locked cabinet in the RUC Station at Dunmurry with details of 12 IRA suspects. (See also entry for 19.9.89 below). The RUC also announce the appointment of Mr John Stevens, Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, to carry out an investigation into the various leaks.
- 19.9.89 Mr Séamus Mallon tells a press conference that details relating to 18 South Armagh IRA suspects had been leaked from Tennent Street RUC station (Belfast) and had come into the possession of an SDLP supporter in August 1988. The details had been passed on to Newry solicitor, Mr Rory McShane.

The RUC announces that a second document had gone missing from the Dunmurry RUC station containing details of 17 suspects. Its loss apparently had not been noticed earlier.

21. 9. 89 It is reported that three letters had been received through the post in the Newry area containing what was described as "Newry PIRA Sighting List", with details of 10 people on it. There was also the message, "We got Maginn, you are next. (UFF)". Sinn Féin discloses a fourth person to receive the list.

The Sun newspaper receives a letter with 9 people from Derry identified on it.

RUC contact 10 people in Cookstown to inform them that their names, addresses and photographs may have fallen into the hands of paramilitaries. [SDLP's Denis Haughey speculates that a montage containing the names may have been seized in a house search of suspected loyalists earlier in the month].

22. 9. 89 RUC approach a number of people in the Shantallow and Bogside areas of Derry to warn them that their photographs appear in unspecified leaked documents.

Mr Hugh Torney of IRSP tells a press conference that he has received a photomontage of 13 men, with the words, "Remember FitzPatrick, you are next, UVF".

Document containing photographs and details of 60 people (25 of them living in Co. Donegal) delivered to David McKittrick of The Independent.

Shankill Road youth, Stephen Hill(17), charged with possession of documents relating to UDR and IRA suspects. [In court it is alleged that Hill is a member of the UDA]

24. 9. 89 RUC admit that police documents, including a montage of suspects, stolen from a car in Derry on 24 July.

25. 9. 89 Belfast Telegraph reports the Stevens inquiry is to investigate report that British army soldier sold or gave a security document to loyalists in Derry in January.

26. 9. 89 Former soldier who had served in the North sends to Scottish Daily Record photomontage of 50 suspects from Belfast marked "Southern TAOR".

28. 9. 89 Daily Record receives another photomontage with ten people on it headed "Ardoyne Sighting List, May 1980".

Mr John Stevens announces that a soldier serving in West Germany is to be brought to Northern Ireland to answer questions about leaks to The Sun newspaper.

The investigation team headed by John Stevens is to be increased by four to nineteen.

30. 9. 89 Shaun Robert Cunliffe, a British soldier serving in West Germany, charged with unlawful possession and communication of documents.
2. 9. 89 The Irish News alleges existence of organisation called Inner Circle consisting of former and serving members of RUC dedicated to destroying republican terrorism and the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The group claims to be in possession of highly detailed files and documents on 233 terrorists and political activists, 64 of them living south of the border.
- Sinn Féin Councillor produces photomontage relating to 49 people at meeting of Monaghan County Council.
- The Northern Echo of Darlington reveals that it had received photographs and details of 156 alleged IRA and INLA members issued between 1976 and 1984 from an ex-serviceman.
3. 10. 89 The Irish News carries a report of claim by SDLP Councillor, Joe Hendron, that a photograph of Gerard Slane, published last year in a loyalist paramilitary magazine shortly after he had been shot dead by the UFF, had been taken five years previously in Castlereagh Holding Centre.
4. 10. 89 Bristol Western Daily Press carries report that it has received details of 40 IRA suspects.