



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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IMMEDIATE
30TH AUGUST 1989

TO BELFAST FROM HQ

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MOBFV XELQO

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*cc P.S.T P.S.S
P.S. M
A/Sec Gallagher
M.O. Downum
(canceled)
M.O.'Brien*

(N027)

CODED MESSAGE	
IMMEDIATE URGENT	
CONFIDENTIAL	
DATE 30/8/89	TIME 1745
INITIALS PS	

*McCarthy
31-8-89
Kw
3/18*

0836C

TO: HQ FROM: BELFAST
30 AUGUST 1989

IMMEDIATE

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FOR: B. MCMAHON FROM: P. COLLINS

THE BRITISH CAME BACK TO ME IN RELATION TO THE B9C REPORT YESTERDAY EVENING THAT THE UFF HAD ACCESS TO CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY FORCE FILES AND THAT THE MURDER OF LOUGHLIN MAGINN ON FRIDAY LAST WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE POSSESSION OF SUCH SECURITY FORCE INFORMATION (I HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE COLLUSION EARLY YESTERDAY AND ASKED FOR A REPORT FOLLOWING THE B9C NEWS ITEM).

MY INTERLOCUTOR MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- (I) THE ALLEGATIONS WERE VIEWED WITH EXTREME CONCERN BY NORTHERN IRELAND MINISTERS. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN HAD BEEN NOTED BY NORTHERN IRELAND MINISTERS.
- (II) THE MATTER WAS NOW THE SUBJECT OF AN ACTIVE INVESTIGATION BY THE RUC AND, AS THE MINISTER OF STATE, MR. COPE, HAD SAID, THE INVESTIGATION WOULD BE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY.
- (III) THE IRISH SIDE WOULD BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
- (IV) THEY WISHED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING TWO POINTS, AT THIS STAGE, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE:

 - (A) IT WAS THEIR UNDERSTANDING, ON PRESENT INFORMATION, THAT AMONG THE DOCUMENTS INVOLVED THERE WAS ONE OF "THE TYPE

REGULARLY PREPARED BY THE RUC FOR ISSUE TO MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES OPERATING CHECKS AND CONTROLS".

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ADDRESS OF MR. MAGINN ON ONE OF THE DOCUMENTS WAS NOT THE CURRENT ONE.

- (B) THE JOURNALIST CONCERNED (CHRIS MOORE) HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE RUC YESTERDAY AND WAS BEING INTERVIEWED AGAIN TODAY. HE WAS COOPERATING FULLY WITH THE RUC.

THERE WAS LITTLE ELSE THEY COULD SAY AT THIS STAGE OTHER THAN TO STRESS AGAIN THAT THEY VIEWED THE ISSUE WITH CONCERN AND UNDERSTOOD THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. AS AN INDICATION OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO ACTION IN THESE CASES, THEY WOULD POINT TO THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF ARRESTS OF LOYALIST PARAMILITARIES RECENTLY. THEY HAD CONVEYED DETAILS OF THESE TO US LAST WEEK (YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE BRITISH INFORMED ME LAST WEEK OF THE ARREST OF 23 LOYALISTS IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT SECTARIAN MURDERS/ATTACKS AND THAT, AMONG THE 13 PEOPLE CHARGED, 4 WERE CONNECTED WITH THE SECURITY FORCES, THAT IS, 1 WAS A MEMBER OF THE UDR, 1 HAD BEEN JUST DISCHARGED FROM THE UDR, 1 HAD BEEN ON THE POINT OF RECRUITMENT TO THE UDR AND 1 WAS A SERVING MEMBER OF THE TERRITORIAL ARMY.)

I SAID I WOULD REPORT TO MY AUTHORITIES. I REITERATED THAT THE BRC REVELATIONS HAD CAUSED THE MOST SERIOUS CONCERN IN DUBLIN. IT WOULD BE READILY OBVIOUS THAT THE POSSESSION OF SECURITY FORCE FILES BY PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS HAD THE MOST SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND, WHILE THAT MUST BE THE PRIMARY CONCERN, THERE WERE OTHER OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS TO ACCESS TO SECURITY FORCE MATERIAL BY ANY UNAUTHORISED PERSON. THE IRISH SIDE WOULD WISH TO HAVE A DETAILED EXCHANGE ON THESE SPECIFIC ISSUES AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY AND ON THE ISSUE OF COLLUSION GENERALLY BETWEEN LOYALIST PARAMILITARIES AND THE UDR ESPECIALLY.

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