



An Chartlann Náisiúnta **National Archives**

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Harassment
Leads
Rutland Bullets
Mue day



Role of UDR

1. 1985 Communique - to wh.
P.M. agreed
2. Specify - harassment
- leads
- R. Bullets
- none clearly
3. Point to remedying.
Point mentioned to Secretary
Govt this AM.

15/9/89

1. I know there are many fine men and women in the UDR; I recognise the losses borne by the Regiment and I know the danger many serving and former UDR soldiers face as soft targets in some areas of Northern Ireland (179 killed). Nonetheless the situation is so serious, and the pattern of misconduct and worse now so well established, that it is not credible to speak - as some do - of a few bad apples. The record is quite frightening and shows:

- at least 130 serious criminal convictions since 1970,
- 16 convictions for murder, many of them sectarian,
- 7 convictions for manslaughter,
- numerous thefts of weapons from army bases.

2. That was the record the Anglo-Irish Agreement sought to address. Both Governments knew in 1985, as they had known for a long time, that there was a fundamental problem to be addressed about the UDR. The core problem - and let's be very frank - related to the reasons and in particular the justification for the existence of a locally-recruited regiment in Northern Ireland.

3. At the time of the Agreement, the two Governments saw the grave threat the UDR issue posed for the successful conclusion of the negotiations and sought to respond to the problem in a number of ways. Despite our fundamental reservations, and in an effort to find a way forward, we, for our part, did not press for disbandment. In return, we were given commitments that a number of effective reforms would be introduced, including (a) improved training and discipline; (b) non-deployment in sensitive areas; and (c) in particular, accompaniment of the UDR by the RUC. However, the effect of the action taken has clearly been

inadequate and unsatisfactory and we are back again facing the same fundamental problem, but in a more acute form. I don't believe that it will now be ever possible to create any degree of confidence in the Regiment - and the 1985 Agreement was in very significant part about the establishment of confidence and cooperation.

4. Let me be more specific. Since 1985 we have had
 - in the period 1 January 1985 to 1 September 1989, 73 members of the UDR discharged or resigned having been convicted or involved in criminal offence;
 - in one period alone - January 1986 to April 1988 - 28 members of the UDR convicted of murder or other serious crimes involving the use of firearms; we do not yet have more recent figures but it appears that the current rate of UDR convictions for serious violent crime is one per month;
 - as we speak, there are at least 3 serving members and two former members of the UDR before the courts on charges of four separate murders (Davis, Maginn, McKee, Patton).
5. I appreciate that I am raising very fundamental issues here today. But I do so in the certain knowledge that unless we tackle and take them on, we are inevitably going to progressively undermine, weaken and actually endanger the Agreement. Both Governments have committed too much - with thankfully a considerable degree of success - to take any such risk. This is why I feel we need to go back to the basic drawing board and assess calmly and comprehensively the very justification for the existence of the UDR, and the role allocated to it in security arrangements in Northern Ireland.

6. I appreciate also of course that you cannot be expected to respond today to the questions I have raised. In the first place, the UDR is not just an NIO responsibility. But I would like to propose that we have a further meeting, at an early date, in which together we would take up again that fundamental issue which was - maybe I'm being unfair in saying this, but I'll say it anyhow - to some degree fudged in 1985. In short, and our officials can get together as necessary in the meantime and draw up a detailed agenda, I would like to see an early Special Conference devoted exclusively to the reasons and justification for the existence and role of the UDR.

E1097

Not

Selected Listing of UDR Members Charged with Offences
(Mid-1985 to date)



15.7.85	Three men, two UDR members, remanded in custody on charge of unlawful imprisonment of 17-year-old catholic youth.	The two UDR men receive suspended sentences
5.10.85	UDR member charged with disorderly behaviour	Fined £200
8.10.85	Part-time UDR member charged with unlawfully discharging pistol in public place.	Fined £100
31.7.85	UDR member charged with riotous behaviour. Subsequently dismissed. [in August 85 also charged with possession of firearms]	Convicted 25.10.85 and fined £75
27.1.86	Two UDR members open fire on car injuring two unarmed passengers at Klidress Inn, Cookstown	DPP decides not to prosecute; RUC refuses to release names of men, so preventing private prosecution
22.1.86	Part-timer convicted of damaging catholic neighbour's car.	14 days imprisonment and £180 damages
13.2.86	Former UDR member charged with having ammunition at home under suspicious circumstances	2 years imprisonment
24.4.86	UDR man charged with murder of Kevin Donnelly	

9. 86	Two UDR members charged with having loaded shot-gun in suspicious circumstances.	
8.4.86	Part-timer, Stephen Tweed, charged with possession and unlawful firing of weapon.	
.5.86	UDR man charged after breaking cheek bone of a farmer with rifle butt.	12 month conditional discharge
1.7.86	Four members of UDR sentenced to life imprisonment for murder of Adrian Carroll in 1983	
9.9.86	UDR member found guilty of murder of catholic in April 1985	
.11.86	Former UDR member charged with civilian of sending threatening letter to five catholic families; each letter contained a bullet	Sentenced 4.6.87 to 2 years.
22.2.87	UDR base in Coleraine raided by four members of UDA, two of whom were also members of UDR serving at the base.	One of UDR members sentenced to 6 years; other{who had supplied information} got 2-year suspended sentence
6.3.87	Former UDR member, David Crawford, pleaded guilty to possession of 28 weapons and 5000 rounds of ammunition.	Crawford had at various times been member UDA, Tara and the Third Force.
18.3.87	UDR Member Cyril Rainey sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for his part in murder of James Galway in 1982.	Four other ex-part-time members also on trial for catalogue of UVF offences.

8.88	two UDR members arrested after raid on Palace Road barracks in which 18 weapons were stolen	
1.9.87	UDR member, John Fletcher, fined for possessing a firearm and certificate in Dundalk.	
19.9.87	UDR member charged with manslaughter.	Sentenced 15.10.88 to 4 years.
16.12.87	UDR member charged with attempted robbery of bank	
10.8.88	UDR soldier arrested with three others for murder of Samuel Patton	Trial pending
11.88	UDR Greenfinch Branker convicted of passing information to the UDA	
3.89	former UDR member sentenced to 5 years for illegal possession of sub-machine gun	
3.89	two of four charged with murder of Niall Davis members of UDR; another about to join	
9.89	Two UDR members charged with murder of Loughlin Maginn and Liam McKee	
9.5.89	UDR Greenfinch, Joanne Garvin convicted of passing information to UVF.	