



## **An Chartlann Náisiúnta** **National Archives**

<b>Reference Code:</b>	2019/31/45
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## Speaking Note

### Stevens Enquiry/Security Leaks

1. We have now had well over twenty separate incidents involving the leaking or theft of documents. We both agreed the last day that the inspiration for a number of these incidents is malicious and that they are intended to drive a wedge between the two Governments and, ultimately, to weaken the Agreement itself. At the same time the reality is that the RUC, the regular army and the UDR have all been implicated in the leaks and thefts. The situation is therefore extremely serious and worrying and requires an urgent and effective response at a number of levels.
2. I appreciate very much the information which you and the Chief Constable have given me about the Stevens enquiry and I commend the Chief Constable and Mr. Stevens on the very effective work which they have done in such a short time. However, as I stressed the last day, we are not just dealing with a rotten apples question but have a major structural problem on our hands.
3. I believe therefore - and I do not wish this to reflect in any way on Mr. Stevens or his enquiry - that a police enquiry is now not enough and that the underlying problem needs to be tackled in a much more fundamental way. I would like to suggest to you therefore, as I did in private at our last meeting, that a broader enquiry is required to meet the needs of the situation. We would envisage that the Commission which would conduct this enquiry should sit in public and should have powers to call for persons and papers, and to enquire into the role and conduct of the security forces and their relations with the different sections of the community. The Commission would, of course, also be empowered to make recommendations.

4. I hope that you will accept that our proposal is submitted in good faith with the objective, which we both share, of ensuring that we respond effectively to this very fundamental problem which confronts and challenges both of us, and has such deeply worrying implications in so many directions.

[In the light of the Secretary of State's refusal to accept this proposal]

I am sorry that you cannot agree today to our proposal for a wider enquiry. I believe such an enquiry would have been widely welcomed and would have greatly helped to allay much of the concern and tension that understandably exists at present. However, in the light of our discussion, I am prepared to agree, albeit reluctantly, that the Conference should defer consideration of our proposal until the Stevens enquiry has reported. In agreeing to this, I am presuming that the Stevens enquiry will be completed and will have reported within a reasonably short period.

### Stevens Inquiry - Information Note

On 14 September, the Chief Constable of the RUC appointed John Stevens, Deputy Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, to conduct an inquiry and to report on the disappearance of confidential documents from Dunmurray RUC station. At the same time, this inquiry would embrace the then current RUC investigations into the report by BBC reporter Chris Moore on the passing of confidential information from the security forces to loyalist paramilitaries, and the disappearance of security force documents from Ballykinlar army base.

Stevens was given relatively open-ended terms of reference and was asked to report on any other matters relevant to this area of inquiry. It is clear from what the Chief Constable said at the Conference meeting of 5 October that the Inquiry will, following consultation with the Chief Constable, embrace any associated matter that might be referred to it and that the Stevens Inquiry will make recommendations about the handling of security material both inside and outside the RUC.

The Inquiry team is now composed of 19 officers from 4 different police forces in Britain and includes the RUC officers involved with the original Dunmurray/Chris Moore/ Maginn investigation. The Inquiry team issues its own statements and appears to have directed its own arrests - demonstrated by the presence of members of the Inquiry team during the arrests of 28 members of the UDR on 8 October. [These arrests were followed by sporadic rioting in East Belfast which appears to have been orchestrated by the UDA and which included the firing of about 30 shots at an RUC patrol in the area.]

A total of 24 separate incidents are currently under investigation. So far, 9 members of the security forces have been charged with offences arising from the Inquiry -viz-

A Regular Army soldier, Shaun Cunliffe, charged on 28 September with unlawful possession and communication of documents.

Four full-time members of the UDR - Daryl Chapman, Leslie Wheeler, Robert Thompson, William Casement, charged on 9 October with firearms offences. [We have raised in the Secretariat a report in the media (Sunday Life) that these four, who are on bail, have resumed duty with the regiment.]

Two UDR members, James Neill and Edward Stewart, charged on 13 October with possession of weapons with the intention to endanger life.

Two members of the UDR, Steven Harris and Wallace Andrews, charged with stealing confidential security force material from Dunmurray RUC station.

We have been given to understand that the Stevens Inquiry will conclude its work in 3 or 4 months. While its findings on organisation matters will not be formally published, its non-confidential aspects will be made available to the House of Commons and to Ministers in the Conference.

*B. J. J. J.*

Anglo/Irish Division

17 October 1989

## 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. 10. 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 from County Tyrone and Armagh.
- File and photographs found outside British Army's Intelligence Corps' HQ in Ashford Kent. A spokesman later said that the material was used for training purposes.
5. 10. 89 Irish defence forces documentation posted in Coleraine is received by newspapers and other media organisations. On one of the pages appeared the handwritten message, "UVF: Some of the material given by former friends who murdered Brian Robinson."
8. 10. 89 28 members of UDR arrested and questioned by detectives involved in Steven inquiry. A number of photomontages and some ammunition was also seized in the operation. 4 men subsequently charged with firearms offences.
10. 10. 89 Séamus Mallon hands over to Stevens Inquiry a document containing photomontage of 17 people and a list headed "top PIRA vehicles" of 24 names with details of their cars. The document had been posted in Dungannon earlier in the week to a weekly newspaper.
12. 10. 89 An Phoblacht claims that it has documents relating to an MI5 operation to infiltrate the Irish community in Germany. Details of these documents were apparently leaked simultaneously to a German newspaper. The story is also carried in the Sunday Tribune of 15. 10. 89.



- 13.10.89 Two UDR members, Private James Neill(46) and Private Edward Stewart(32), charged with possession of weapons with intention of endangering life.
- 14.10.89 Two UDR members, Private Steven Harris(20) and Lance Corporal Wallace Francis Andrews(25), charged with stealing two photomontages from Dunmurry RUC station on 12 August.