



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

<b>Reference Code:</b>	2019/31/9
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
<b>Accession Conditions:</b>	Open
<b>Copyright:</b>	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

*M. H. Murphy*  
*2/12*

Analysis of published paramilitary comment  
week ending 24 February, 1989.

IRA Campaign Plans

The Sunday Times reported Danny Morrisson as saying on Australia's Channel 9 TV that "I think it's the intention of the IRA to escalate the situation. Next August (ie the twentieth anniversary of the arrival of the British Army) has given the Republicans an opportunity. It is well known that the IRA are heavily armed and have yet to put those arms into the field." He added that "the RUC were predicting it was going to happen last year and the IRA, probably on the basis that a guerrilla operates with the element of surprise, sat back and didn't let it happen".

Attack on Shropshire Barracks

This week's An Phoblacht takes as its cover story the attack on the Tern Hill Barracks in Shropshire. It says that the attack on the 2nd Parachute Battalion "was not a revenge attack as much of the media claimed" but was "directed at forcing the British government, in the only language that government understands, to leave Ireland". "The IRA is still operating in Britain and is capable of delivering devastating blows to the enemy's morale".

Threats to Catholic Solicitors

In the course of the week media reports claimed that Lord Fitt had intended to name three solicitors, including Pat Finucane, using parliamentary privilege. Lord Fitt has refused to comment.

The UFF claimed to have evidence based on their interrogation of James McVeigh (who surrendered to them under their pre-Christmas amnesty for loyalist collaborators with the IRA) that Finucane was a legal and financial advisor to Provisionals and ... was also responsible for channelling large amounts of money through an insurance company for the paramilitaries.

A telephone threat against three other named Catholic solicitors on 17 February was dismissed as a hoax by a UDA spokesman according to the Sunday World. The spokesman noted that the code word used in the call was two years out of date.

IPLO Attack on Orange Cross Bar

The Sunday News reports the IPLO as denying that the attack on the Orange Bar was sectarian and alleging that the bar was a UVF hangout. The paper itself alleges that "a top-level UVF delegation was meeting in an upstairs room" at the time of the attack. The IPLO is quoted as saying that "two women were shot because they became hysterical and tried to attack our volunteers" and alleging that the presence of an off-duty UDR man was evidence of security force collusion with loyalist paramilitaries. The man killed in the attack was a former Red Hand Commando but IPLO claims that he was acting as a UVF intelligence officer were denied.

Dublin-Belfast Rail Link

The Sunday World reports Republican Sources in South Armagh as saying that the IRA is intent on permanently closing the Dublin-Belfast railway line.

#### Adams on the BBC

Responding to criticism of a decision to broadcast a 30-second interview with Gerry Adams welcoming the 'International Fund's investment in West Belfast the BBC said that it was satisfied that the interview fell within the Home Office guidelines because "in this instance the MP was speaking on behalf of his constituency and the people in it rather than his party".

#### Carron Extradition Trial

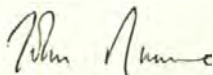
An Phoblacht reports that "The Dublin government called RUC witnesses, including a former member of the notorious Mobile Support Unit to testify against Owen Carron in the High Court hearing of his appeal against extradition" and refers to "obviously hostile judges".

#### Seal and Search operation in Cookstown

This week's An Phoblacht reports that in a seal and search operation in the Greenvale estate in Cookstown last week RUC special branch men took photographs inside the homes of nationalists and noted down details of any security locks and warning systems in the houses. This is reported to have "cast a shadow of fear over the whole community....In view of the past record of RUC collusion with Nationalist killers".

#### Threats of Violence

This week's newspapers carry an unusually large number of reports of revenge/feud threats. The IRA is reported to be hunting for a mid-Ulster UVF gang following the killing of John Davey (Sunday News) and the UDA claim to have been tipped off about a separate IRA plan to kill a senior UDA figure in retaliation for Pat Finucane (Sunday News). The UVF is reported to have drawn up a 15 strong hit list (7 senior PIRA and 8 senior IPLO/INLA) arising out of its interrogation of James McVeigh (Sunday News). The IPLO has threatened to kill two named men in North Belfast (alleged to be the UVF Chief of Staff and Director of Operations) if there are any further sectarian murders there (Sunday News). A gun attack in East Belfast on 19 February may have been linked to a loyalist paramilitary feud (Irish News) and the Sunday World claims that there is a danger of an IRA vs INLA/IPLO feud over defections to the larger organisation.



Anglo-Irish Division  
24 February, 1989

cc AI Division; AI Secretariat; Mr Nally; Mr O'Brien;  
Mr J Brosnan; Mr S Brosnan; Embassies London, Washington,  
Canberra.