



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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In September 1989, arising from the Stevens Inquiry, the RUC arrested three men, who were subsequently charged and are currently being held on remand.

Robert Henry of Magherafelt was charged with conspiracy to murder John Joe Davey and with conspiracy to import arms for the UVF.

William Smyth of Magherafelt was charged with possession of information likely to be of use to terrorists (a photomontage of 20 IRA suspects) and with conspiracy to import arms for the UVF.

Victor Nelson of Cookstown was charged with conspiracy to import arms for the UVF.

Subsequent to a recent conversation between Mr O' Donovan and Paddy Duffy, through Bernie Mulholland, a solicitor with P.A. Duffy & Co., I was given sight of three statements made by Victor Nelson while in police custody. In the first of these statements, Nelson described himself as a registered arms dealer and confesses to attempts to import arms for the UVF from an arms dealer in the UK. The statement implicates Robert Henry in the conspiracy.

He also made two other statements which effectively allege that he had been acting for some time as an agent for RUC Special Branch.

In the first of these statements he alleges that "some months ago", a "friend" collected two AK47 rifles from a pub opposite the police station in Bushmills and left the weapons at his house. He told the police that he had the weapons and two members of the RUC called to see the weapons. They were accompanied by "a man with an english accent" and by someone who appeared to be in charge with the name Ringland. The weapons were later taken to the DMSU room at Cookstown RUC station where they were photographed. The weapons were later returned to his house. Sometime later his "friend" collected the two rifles and left them for collection at Tobermore.

Please see the attached press report of the remand hearing in respect of Robert Henry where the prosecution allege that Henry's role in the murder of John Joe Davey was that he collected two rifles in a bar at Bushmills and left them at an outhouse at Tobermore. This implies that the "friend" mentioned in Nelson's statement was Robert Henry and that the AK 47's allegedly photographed at Cookstown RUC station were subsequently used in the murder of John Joe Davey

The other statement by Nelson alleges that after the seizure in Portadown of the UDA share of the joint UDA/UVF/Ulster Resistance arms importation of January 1988, he was contacted by a group of people. While he does not name their organisation, he does name the individuals as

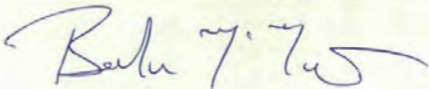
Norman Sayers, McDermott, Davy Martin, Kiran Hill and Brian McCormick. They allegedly showed him a quantity of rifles pistols and grenades in an outhouse at Laurencetown Demesne. He expressed an interest in the weapons and was told that they were under the control of the local commander, Ernie Watt. Some days later, he showed the location to one of his police contacts. In his statement he says that the police subsequently made no attempt to raid the arms dump.

Bernie Mulholland told me that at the remand hearing, the prosecution stated that both of these statements by Nelson are currently under investigation.

Comment:

It remains to be seen whether in fact there is any truth in Nelson's two statements, both of which clearly imply that he worked hand in glove with RUC Special Branch for a number of years and that the RUC had, for whatever reasons, allowed guns to pass freely to Loyalist paramilitaries.

It is probably fair to assume that Nelson, at the very least, exaggerates the extent of his co-operation with the RUC. At the same time, it may be a case of "no smoke without fire" and Nelson may well have had some sort of substantive on-going relationship with the RUC - particularly if, as he alleges in his main statement, he is a registered arms dealer. The outcome of the current investigation of Nelson's allegations will therefore be of particular interest.



Brendan McMahon  
Anglo/Irish Division  
2 January 1990

cc A/Sec Gallagher ✓  
Joint Secretary ✓  
Mr O' Donovan ✓  
Section ✓

cc'd  
M.S.  
3/1/90