



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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FAX COVER SHEET

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From: BELFAST

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Chief Constable M. Amosley + Ms. Stevens

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Telephone  
BELFAST 050222M. N. Ameysey O.P.M.  
CHIEF CONSTABLEBROOKLYN  
KNOCK ROAD  
BELFAST  
NORTHERN IRELAND BT1 4LE

Ladies and Gentlemen

I think the first thing I would invite you to accept is that an outside Enquiry can take place into the affairs of the Security Forces in Northern Ireland with the total co-operation of all concerned, as Mr Stevens has firmly acknowledged.

second, I wish to emphasise the following comments and conclusions by Mr Stevens.

Paragraph 7

"It could not, for example, be assumed that a document found in the possession of a terrorist organisation which was headed 'Royal Ulster Constabulary', 'Army' or 'Prison Service', was leaked directly from that particular element of the Security Forces."

Paragraph 9

"It should also be pointed out at this stage that terrorist recognition information documents such as photo montages are classified under the lowest security rating. During the Enquiry no documents of



any higher security classification have been recovered, or indeed come to notice, as having been in the hands of any terrorist organisation."

#### Paragraph 10

"The latest date of any documents traced to the possession of Loyalist paramilitaries by the Enquiry is June, 1988."

#### Paragraph 11

"It is clear from the evidence and detailed analysis of the Security Force documents recovered during the Enquiry, that the passing of information to paramilitaries by members of the Security Forces is restricted to a small number of individuals and is neither widespread nor institutionalised."

This conclusion is, obviously, of crucial importance to us all.

I have found it hard during this Enquiry to maintain the silence I consider proper. It is regretful and unjustified that the RUC has had to bear the innuendo that, because no





RUC officers have been charged, Mr Stevens has not done his job.

Can I remind you that I appointed Mr Stevens - he was not forced on a reluctant RUC. In doing so, I was supported by my Senior Officers, the Superintendents' Association and the Police Federation. Hardly, you may feel, the action of a Force with something to hide. In September last year I stated publicly -

"The RUC will not tolerate wrong doing should it be uncovered within its own ranks or flinch from tackling it in any other branch of the Security Forces, or elsewhere in Society. Criminality will be dealt with without fear or favour".

I say so again today and there will be no deviation from that stance.

But let me also make it quite clear that the RUC is entitled to the same standard of justice as anyone else. Unless there is evidence, as opposed to speculation, of wrong doing, then my Officers are entitled to the virtue of innocence.



I have now been in command of the RUC for a year and I have no hesitation in assuring all the well meaning people of Northern Ireland that the RUC is an excellent force which does not always get the credit it deserves. It really does merit your continued, indeed enhanced, support.

I would also like to comment on the Ulster Defence Regiment. Throughout this Enquiry the UDR has been subjected to a level of wholesale denigration that is simply not justified.

I think the UDR does an exceptional job in this Province and the RUC simply could not <sup>manage</sup> operate effectively without them. It is, I think, particularly poignant that whilst the whole Regiment is being criticised in a patch all way their members, like my own officers, are being murdered by terrorists as they perform their duty on behalf of the whole population of Northern Ireland.

I will now briefly comment on the recommendations that relate to the RUC.

There are 31 specific recommendations directed towards the RUC but, let me assure you, the stark portrayal of these in the report may look very much worse than it is. The recommendations fall into two broad categories with considerable overlap.



1. Those that deal with the production and care of terrorist recognition material (montages).
- ii. Those that deal with CID Support Services - that is Scenes of Crime, Fingerprints and the examination of exhibits.

In respect of the first category a number of measures have already been implemented and the other recommendations will be considered, as quickly as possible, within the Force and in consultation with other agencies.

Insofar as the second category is concerned this is an area I had discussed last year with my Senior Colleagues and the Director of the Northern Ireland Forensic Science Laboratory. As a result an internal review has already taken place and the results presented to me, (Show Report), which cover similar areas to Mr Stevens. Some of these, dealing with FP's and Scenes of Crime, have already been actioned and others will be examined with those by Mr Stevens and brought forward for decision as soon as possible.

I must point out, even at this stage, that issues of scale could make some of the recommendations impracticable in the Northern Ireland context.



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Last Year in GB there were some 23 terrorist incidents requiring scene examination for periods of 3 days to 3 weeks.

In Northern Ireland there were 1,655 terrorist incidents and scenes requiring examination. In terms of logistics, personnel and containment, the same approach is not viable here.

However, lest the fallacious impression be gained that crime support and laboratory examination is seriously lacking here, let me remind you of the many successful cases in Northern Ireland where the level of CID, Scenes of Crime, Fingerprint, Photography and laboratory expertise were outstanding examples of investigative competence.

There are also 18 general recommendations which again considerably overlap, relating primarily to document security and these will now be considered with other relevant agencies.



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STATEMENT BY MR STEVENS

WHEN I CAME TO NORTHERN IRELAND 8 MONTHS AGO I PROMISED A THOROUGH AND TOTALLY IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGATIONS OF COLLUSION BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES AND LOYALIST PARAMILITARIES. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT MY ENQUIRY TEAM AND I HAVE DONE.

AT THE OUTSET I CANNOT EMPHASIS ENOUGH THAT THERE ARE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF MATTERS BEFORE THE COURTS. THAT BEING SO YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT I AM CONSIDERABLY RESTRICTED IN WHAT I MAY SAY. I DO ASK YOU TO BEAR THAT IN MIND THROUGHOUT THIS CONFERENCE.

THE ENQUIRY HAS BEEN WIDE RANGING AND DETAILED. IT HAS BEEN THE LARGEST EXTERNAL ENQUIRY EVER UNDERTAKEN IN NORTHERN IRELAND. FOR EXAMPLE, 2,000 MAN HOURS WERE EXPENDED ON INTERVIEWS WITH DETAINED PERSONS AND OVER 2,600 DOCUMENTS OF ALL TYPES HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. SOME OF THEM ARE SECURITY FORCE DOCUMENTS AND MANY OF THEM ARE PHOTOCOPIES. WRITTEN DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY THE PARAMILITARIES THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. ELECTION PAMPHLETS, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MAPS, VOTERS REGISTERS AND NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS HAVE ALSO BEEN USED BY TERRORISTS FOR THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES.

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94 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENQUIRY, 39 OF THEM HAVE BEEN CHARGED OR REPORTED FOR ALLEGED OFFENCES UNDER THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM, OFFICIAL SECRETS AND FIREARMS ACTS. FURTHER FILES HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS AND THERE ARE OTHER MATTERS YET TO BE FINALISED.

WE ARE IN THE POSITION TO TALK IN GENERAL TERMS OF A DEGREE OF COLLUSION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES AND THE LOYALIST TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DRAW FIRM CONCLUSIONS THAT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE PASSED INFORMATION TO PARAMILITARIES. HOWEVER, I MUST MAKE CLEAR IT IS RESTRICTED TO A SMALL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS, WHO HAVE GRAVELY ABUSED THEIR POSITIONS OF TRUST. THIS ABUSE IS NOT WIDESPREAD OR INSTITUTIONALISED. SOME PEOPLE HAVE CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR THE SECURITY FORCES IN THE EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS TASK THEY UNDERTAKE.

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ALL THE DOCUMENTS RECOVERED ARE OF THE LOWEST SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AND DATE FROM THE MID 1970'S TO MID 1988, NOTHING AFTER THAT DATE HAS BEEN DISCOVERED. A HUGE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, QUITE PROPERLY, BY THE SECURITY FORCES DURING THAT PERIOD FOR VITAL INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATIONAL REASONS. THERE HAS HOWEVER BEEN A SERIOUS LACK OF CONTROLS AND ADEQUATE ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF THESE DOCUMENTS. THIS, COUPLED WITH THEIR AGE, HAS CREATED DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO CHARGE ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTUAL LEAK OF INFORMATION. THIS INVESTIGATION HAS DEALT SOLELY WITH FACTS AND EVIDENCE, NOT WITH SPECULATION OR RUMOUR, THE OUTCOME OF THE INVESTIGATION AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FACTS AS WE HAVE FOUND THEM.

SINCE THIS WHOLE MATTER HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MUCH CONTROVERSY, COMMENT AND SPECULATION, I BELIEVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST DEMANDS THAT AS MUCH OF THE SUBSTANCE OF MY REPORT AS POSSIBLE IS DISCLOSED. IT IS A SUBSTANTIAL DOCUMENT. I MUST EMPHASISE THAT SOME OF IT MUST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL BOTH FOR SECURITY REASONS AND THE FACT THAT PEOPLE ARE STILL WAITING TO BE TRIED BY THE COURTS. A SUMMARY OF THE REPORT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED TODAY.



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IT MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE PRESENT CLIMATE, THAT LEAKAGES OF INFORMATION FROM THE SECURITY FORCES MAY NEVER BE COMPLETELY ELIMINATED. HOWEVER, IF THE MEASURES RECOMMENDED IN RESPECT OF THE POLICE, THE ARMY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS ARE INTRODUCED, THEN THERE IS EVERY HOPE THAT FUTURE COLLUSION BETWEEN THE SECURITY FORCES AND PARAMILITARY GROUPS WILL BE ERADICATED. IN PARTICULAR, SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE BY INTRODUCING:

- (1) A BETTER ACCOUNTING AND SUPERVISION OF INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS;
- (2) NEW PROCEDURES TO RESTRICT THE PRODUCTION OF INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENTATION;
- (3) THE INTRODUCTION OF STRICT CONTROLS IN RESPECT OF DISSEMINATION AND HANDLING OF SUCH DOCUMENTATION. THESE THREE STEPS ARE ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PASSING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION CAN BE TRACED AND HELD CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE;
- (4) HIGHER STANDARDS OF RECRUITMENT TO AND RETENTION WITHIN THE UDR.

I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONSIDERABLE CO-OPERATION OF THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE SECURITY FORCES THROUGHOUT THIS ENQUIRY.



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I HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED BY MY ENQUIRY TEAM, AND I  
ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH THEIR SENTIMENTS, TO THANK ALL  
THOSE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WHO HAVE SHOWN THEIR  
SUPPORT AND EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT THIS ENQUIRY IS  
SUCCESSFUL. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT PEACE AND ~~WELL-BEING~~  
IS RESTORED TO NORTHERN IRELAND, AND I WISH ALL WHO  
ARE INVOLVED IN SECURING THAT AIM EVERY

THANK YOU.

17 MAY 1990