



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2021/45/116
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

SECRET

Mr. Donoghue

I attach a report on a recent meeting with Alan Murray in Belfast. In the course of that meeting we discussed Peter Robinson's reported assertion in the House of Commons about Loyalist paramilitaries that "there is a confidence in those organisations to the extent that they are going to take this battle to the Provos, to the Irish Republic". Murray said that the UDA have been making statements along these lines. He told me that he and Owen Bowcott of the "Guardian" had been told recently by the UDA of their intention to carry out attacks on this side of the border. Murray understood that what the UDA had primarily in mind were attacks on known Provos / Sinn Fein members in border areas in repeats of the Eddie Fullerton killing. He believed that the UDA also had in mind targets in Dublin. He instanced Sinn Fein headquarters. He said also that the UDA had recently told him and Bowcott that the Minister was a target. He had been told "if we can take a crack at him, we will". Bowcott and he intend to run stories on these matters in the near future.

Declan Kelleher

8 November 1991

Bombs - making capacity of loyalists

- Loyalists, we understand, have not got Semtex.
- They have evolved a "gas-bomb", comprising cylinders of gas fuel and oxygen. Found in West Belfast but none used yet;
- They have RPG 7s (from 1988 arms importation). Impact grenades thrown at recent Snice market believed to come from that band.
- They have paid people to carry out ops (eg. payment of two girls to leave vicar's car at Westbrook Shopping Centre).

Points for meeting with Military Intelligence

(A) Loyalist paramilitaries

- Outlook for sectarian violence is grim.
- UDA and UVF are cooperating (Combined Loyalist Military Command).
- More adept at planning and carrying out operations (e.g. Eddie Fullerton). Use of gloves and boiler suits to hamper forensic investigations.
- New generation of leaders, particularly in UDA. Apparently more ruthless. Less well-known.
- RUC concerned at damage to their intelligence capability. Result of Stevens Inquiry arrests and particularly that of Brian Nelson.
- Loyalist noises about attacks in the Republic. Primarily these relate to targetting SF/IRA members in border areas (a la Eddie Fullerton). But we are aware of threats made about targetting Dublin.
- Loyalist threat in aviation area referred to by Terry McLaughlin.

(B) Collusion

- Still a matter of concern. Nationalist concerns at possible links between Loyalist killings (e.g. Cappagh) and collusion.
- Recent Channel 4 documentary posited existence of "Inner Circle". These reports are not new, but we remain concerned.

UDR

- Your analysis of the UDR, dated 10 October 1989, and signed by Michael Murphy, is a well-informed and interesting account of the UDR.
- Offer briefing on recent call-out of UDA part-timers;
- Part-timers from 1/9, 7/10 and 2/11 UDR called out at on Friday 15 November, in context of recent upsurge in sectarian violence;
- Presence will be reviewed in light of evolving security situation. Not expected to be of long duration.