

ASST

Mr Murphy

519/93

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: I W SLOAN
Police Division
21 September 1993

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Fall - B
Mr Deverell - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Lyon - B
Mr Blackwell - B
Mrs Collins - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Lavery
Mrs Pritchard

ASST
SEC
347/9
28 SEP 1993
CENT

1185CX

799/9

Mr Pritchard

Mr Watkins
for file
2/9

PS/SIR JOHN WHEELER (B&L) - B

ATTACKS ON SDLP COUNCILLORS ON 21 SEPTEMBER 1993

As promised when Mr Lavery, Mrs Pritchard and I met the Minister earlier today, the purpose of this note is to update him on the action which we have taken following the attacks on five members of the SDLP early this morning.

Homes attacked

2. The homes which were attacked were:-

- (1) Mrs Cassie McDermott, Councillor on Banbridge District Council whose home had been attacked before.
- (2) Dr Joe Hendron MP whose home had also been attacked before.
- (3) Jonathan Stephenson, Councillor on Belfast City Council.
- (4) Peter O'Hagan, Councillor on Lisburn Borough Council.
- (5) Patrick Toman, Councillor on Down District Council.

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Action taken to date

3. Mr Lavery visited all five individuals at their homes during the course of today to reassure them of the Government's concern and to let them know what action we are taking to respond to these attacks. Protection measures were already in place at the homes of Mrs McDermott and Dr Hendron. These included

In light of this morning's attacks, the RUC have been asked to review these measures and to let us know urgently if they now need to be enhanced.

4. Work to install limited security measures at the home of Councillor Stephenson had begun yesterday. Mr Stephenson together with Councillors O'Hagan and Toman have been advised that full protection measures will be provided at their homes as a matter of urgency. The RUC intend to carry out security surveys of these homes today.

5. In addition, as agreed by the Minister this morning, we are taking steps to provide limited protection measures at the home of Mrs McAleenan, a member of Down District Council who although not attacked, like Councillor Toman, lives in Ballynahinch. The RUC will carry out a security survey of her house tomorrow, and report their recommendations to me.

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Further advice from the RUC

6. We have asked the RUC for advice on whether we should now extend to other SDLP Councillors living in other areas, the limited range of home protection measures approved by the Minister last month. Under this enhancement of the Scheme, we have arranged to protect the homes of SDLP Councillors living in Belfast, Ballymena, Banbridge and, from today, Ballynahinch. We have asked the RUC to consider if there are any other areas in the Province where SDLP Councillors live which could be equally vulnerable to UFF attacks and where we would be justified in taking pro-active measures. We have also asked for urgent individual threat assessments on the 11 SDLP members of Down District Council following the attack on Councillor Toman in Ballynahinch, and our decision to admit Mrs McAleenan to the limited scheme.

7. The pipe-bomb placed at the home of Councillor Stephenson last night caused fairly extensive structural damage. The limited security measures which the contractor was in the process of installing at his home (and which are being provided at the homes of other SDLP Councillors), are designed to provide householders with some reassurance and deter would-be attackers.

We have therefore asked the RUC for an urgent assessment on whether these limited measures are still commensurate with the types of attack or whether our response needs to be enhanced to include

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8. We will provide the Minister with further advice on these matters by the end of the week.

Signed

I W SLOAN
SHA EXT 27045

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