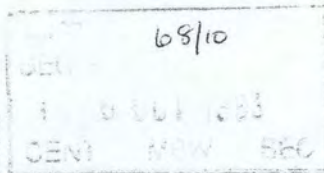


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FROM: I W SLOAN  
Police Division  
1 October 1993



*Mr Murphy*  
147/10

519/93

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)-B  
PS/PUS (B&L) - B  
PS/Mr Feal - B  
Mr Legge - B  
Mr Deverell - B  
Mr Steele - B  
Mr Lyon - B  
Mr Williams - B  
Mr Blackwell - B  
Mrs Collins - B  
Mr Maccabe - B  
Mr Leach - B  
Mr Cornick, RCD  
Mrs Pritchard

1. Mr Lavery [Amended: DAL 1/10/93]  
2. PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B

*Mr W. G. Harris*  
*for file*  
*Done*  
*4/10*

KEY PERSONS PROTECTION SCHEME: SDLP COUNCILLORS

1. The purpose of this note is to update the Minister on the action being taken to protect the homes of certain SDLP Councillors following the most recent series of UFF attacks (on 21 September in the Belfast, Lisburn and Ballynahinch areas). It also seeks the Minister's agreement to the provision of some additional measures.

Attacks on 21 September

2. Of the five homes attacked on 21 September, 2 were in Belfast - those of Dr Hendron MP and Councillor Jonathan Stephenson. In Dr Hendron's case, we have accepted RUC advice that the measures at his home should be further enhanced to include security

On the same basis, the limited package of measures previously agreed for Councillor Stephenson's home will now be enhanced so as to provide

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3. The Banbridge home of Councillor McDermott and the Ballynahinch home of Councillor Toman respectively, were also attacked on 21 September. In Cllr McDermott's case, in addition to the measures already in place, the RUC have recommended

The Lisburn home of Councillor O'Hagan will be similarly protected.

4. All five locations have been visited by the RUC, NIO and DOE personnel and arrangements have been made to install the additional measures as soon as possible. The total additional cost will be approximately £135K plus VAT. This should be containable within the current KPPS budget.

Councillor Mrs McAleenan

5. The Minister agreed that limited protection measures should be provided at the home of Mrs McAleenan, a member of Down District Council who, although not the subject of an attack, lives in Ballynahinch and is a neighbour of Councillor Toman. Councillor McAleenan's home has been visited by the RUC and arrangements are in hand

The scope of the measures being provided

6. We asked the RUC for advice on:
- (a) Whether, in light of these recent attacks, the limited package of security measures is still able to provide a degree of

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reassurance and to deter would-be attackers, as envisaged by the Minister when he approved the package in August; and

- (b) whether we should consider extending the package to include SDLP Councillors living in other areas.

7.

The RUC have also said that, while all SDLP Councillors remain at risk, they have no intelligence to indicate which, if any, Councillors might be targetted next. Apart from the Belfast, Banbridge and Ballymena areas which have suffered the recent attacks, there is no obvious geographical pattern other than they have occurred in areas reasonably accessible to loyalist paramilitaries.

8. In resource terms,

The total cost of providing at the homes of those ten Councillors currently receiving limited protection (see Annex A) would be around £100K plus VAT. This could be contained within this year's KPPS budget.

9. Against this background, we believe that it would be appropriate to enhance the limited package of measures as recommended by the RUC.

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10. As regards extending the geographical spread covered by the limited package (which currently covers Councillors in: Belfast, Ballymena, Banbridge, Lisburn and Ballynahinch), there is little if any objective advice available from the RUC which would justify such a step. The present reality is that the RUC are unable to predict where the UFF will strike next. In the medium term, it is hoped that two specialist squads recently established by the RUC (one specifically to investigate loyalist paramilitary activity) will begin to provide a more co-ordinated approach to intelligence gathering and investigation in these difficult areas. In the meantime our assessment is that, in the absence of intelligence suggesting that other geographical areas are at risk, we should not extend the protective measures beyond the towns already covered.

Down District Council

11. The RUC were asked to assess the level of threat against the other eleven SDLP members on Down District Council following the attack on their colleague, Councillor Toman, last month and our decision to admit Councillor Mrs McAleenan to the limited scheme. The RUC advise that there is no known threat against any of the other Councillors. However, they remain under the same general threat to which all SDLP councillors are subject. In the circumstances, we would not recommend extending KPPS coverage to the SDLP members of Down District Council who live outside Ballynahinch.

Recommendations

12. The Minister of State is invited:
- (i) To note the steps being taken to protect the homes of Dr Hendron MP, and Councillors McDermott, Stephenson, O'Hagan, Toman, and McAleenan;

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(ii) To agree that \_\_\_\_\_ should now be included in the package of measures to be provided for SDLP councillors admitted on a limited basis to the Key Persons Protection Scheme;

(iii) To agree that, on the basis of current RUC advice, those SDLP Councillors living in Belfast, Banbridge, Ballymena, Lisburn and Ballynahinch are to be admitted to the KPPS at present.

Signed

I W SLOAN  
SH EXT 27045

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