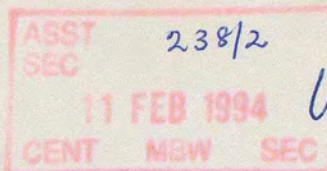


FROM: ROGER MILLAR
DUTY OFFICER
10 FEBRUARY 1994



ans up

17/94

cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L)-B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Fell
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Marsh - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Daniell - B
Mr Rickard - B

611/2

10 FEB 1994

CENT SEC

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B&L) - B

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: POLITICAL KILLINGS IN NI

Mr Wood asked me to circulate Secretary of State's letter to Amnesty International, that was released last night.

I have a question for you. Why do you call on the paramilitaries to desist only from killing civilians? Are human rights denied by you, as well as by the terrorists, to police officers - like Constable Ferguson the officer gunned down in January 1993 in a Londonderry Street? Incidentally, he was a Catholic.

Will you now additionally call on the paramilitaries to stop killing police officers and the military who support them? IF not, why not?

Patrick Mayhew
ROGER MILLAR
DUTY OFFICER
10 FEBRUARY 1994

PH/1714

The following is the text of a letter sent tonight (9 February) by the Secretary of State to Mr Derek Evand, Deputy Secretary General of Amnesty International.

Begins

Thank you for sending me a copy of Amnesty International's latest report entitled "Political Killings in Northern Ireland". I take reports from Amnesty International seriously and will study this one with care. Meanwhile there are two facts I want to place on record now.

First, each member of the Security Forces in Northern Ireland, whether RUC or military, is required to observe the law. There are no immunities and the criteria for criminal prosecutions are precisely the same for them as for any civilian. They are approved by the Director of Public Prosecutions who is an independent office holder.

Second, in 1993 85 human beings were brutally murdered by terrorists in Northern Ireland. None was killed by any member of the Security Forces. I think that might have found a mention in a report that expresses strong suspicions of a policy of unlawful killings by the security forces.

I have a question for you. Why do you call on the paramilitaries to desist only from killing civilians? Are human rights denied by you, as well as by the terrorists, to police officers - like Constable Ferguson the officer gunned down in January 1993 in a Londonderry Street? Incidentally, he was a Catholic.

Will you now additionally call on the paramilitaries to stop killing police officers and the military who support them? IF not, why not?

Patrick Mayhew
Ends

PH/1714