

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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Note

I called Ms Mills of the British Embassy into see me this morning on the instructions of Mr Lillis. I said that Mr Lillis was unavailable and that what I had to say to her was associated with, and in addition to, what had been conveyed yesterday by Mr Lillis to Mr Tatham and by the Minister to Mr Prior concerning the Toman case.

I said we were seriously concerned at the evidence given by the Deputy Chief Constable of the RUC, Mr McAtamney, on 4 June during the course of the trial. He had said that men of the Special Mobile Support Unit attached to RUC headquarters, of which the three RUC men accused of murdering Toman had been members, underwent a 9-10 week course in which they were given extra weapons training. That weapons training was based on the premise that "if you decide to fire, you shoot to take out your assailant". When asked by Lord Justice Gibson if this meant "permanently out of action", Mr McAtamney replied "Yes". He also said that these men are trained to shoot at the trunk of the body rather than the legs.

When taken in conjunction with the evidence given by Constable Robinson during his trial that members of the Special Mobile Patrol Unit are trained to use maximum fire power, we now in effect have a statement on the record that says this Unit was trained in and was utilising a shoot-to-kill policy. I said there is a need for the British to repudiate claims that there is a shoot to kill policy.

I went over the ground about the damage that the evidence given by policemen in these trials and the comments of judges have caused to the perception of justice within the minority community.

Ms Mills undertook to convey these views to her authorities.

*Doc*  
D. Ó Ceallaigh  
7 June 1984

c.c. PSM  
PSS  
A-I Section