

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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## ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT

1. Following the killing of Paul Kelly on the night of 14/15 January, 1985, the Minister conveyed the grave concern of the Government at the killing to the British Ambassador. The Minister asked that the arms of the UDR personnel involved be withdrawn immediately and the personnel suspended pending the fullest investigation of the incident.
2. The Minister conveyed in the strongest terms the conviction of the Government that the UDR should not be deployed in nationalist areas in Northern Ireland. In the interests of both sections of the community, for the sake of security and communal harmony and in the interests of the members of the UDR itself.
3. The Minister said he was convinced that the UDR was seen by many loyalists in Northern Ireland as an armed militia of their own community whose purpose it was to defend their community against attack from nationalist extremists. Nationalists in Northern Ireland believe the UDR to be an armed instrument of domination of their community by the majority community. As such the UDR was a dangerous source of division in Northern Ireland. Its deployment in nationalist areas could result only in further alienation, confrontation and violence. (The press statement is attached.)
4. At their Annual Conference last weekend the SDLP adopted a resolution calling for the disbandment of the UDR. The resolution was proposed by the Party's spokesman on Northern Ireland, Mr. Seamus Mallon. None of the speakers who spoke to the motion dissented from the view that it should be disbanded.

5. There have been three major incidents since Christmas which have drawn the attention of the public to crimes committed by the UDR. The first was the shooting of Paul Kelly, a joyrider, by a UDR patrol at a UDR roadblock at an entrance to Catholic West Belfast. The second was the conviction of UDR member Geoffrey Edwards of Armagh for the murder of Sinn Fein election worker Peter Corrigan and for four attempted murders including that of Seamus Grew who was subsequently shot dead by the RUC. The third incident was the involvement of members of the Regiment from the Armagh District in the kidnapping of Mrs. Speers last Sunday.
6. Attached is a list, non-exclusive which appeared in Phoenix magazine in March 1984, and which we understand was drawn up by Eamonn McCann, which lists almost 100 UDR men who over the years have been convicted of serious crimes or are currently awaiting trial charged with serious crime. They include crimes such as the murder of the Miami showband by four serving members of the UDR, the involvement of a serving UDR member in the Shankill Butchers, the murder of Adrian Carroll in Armagh in 1983, and numerous serious sectarian offences. Since the beginning of 1983 UDR members have been found guilty of murder, issuing death threats to Catholics, wounding with intent and false imprisonment, sectarian arson, assaulting a 69 year old pensioner at a checkpoint, indecent assault, gross indecency and buggery with under-aged children as well as burglary.
7. The membership of the UDR is to all extents and purposes exclusively unionist and protestant, their victims have almost exclusively been Catholic and nationalist. Their existence and their behaviour are a major element in the growing feeling of alienation within the minority community who find it impossible to identify with the UDR. It seems clear from the extent of the crimes

committed by the UDR and from the extent of the manner in which they engage in the petty harassment of the minority community that there has been insufficient control over the manner in which they are recruited and insufficient control over UDR members once they become serving members of the Regiment.

Foreign Affairs, Mr. Peter Barry, T.D.

*Doc*  
D. O Ceallaigh  
30 January, 1985

The Minister for Foreign Affairs conveyed to the British Government the grave concern of the Irish Government and people at the killing of a loyal youth and the injuring of others by members of the Ulster Defence Regiment this morning in West Belfast.

The Minister said that the arms of the personnel involved should be withdrawn immediately and the personnel suspended pending the fullest investigation of the incident.

He stated that the deployment of the UDR in and around West Belfast, the area of most intense alienation of nationalists in Northern Ireland, was incomprehensible to him. It was difficult to believe that the British authorities could have failed to learn that such practice could result only in further alienation, confrontation and violence.