



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Today Tonight Programme on Stalker

30/10/86 \*

The programme was detailed, well organised and will make an impact on the public.

*the h/c Comby  
A. Lodge was also  
near to me - and, I think  
significant  
3/11/86  
Merran*

Interested journalists will see that for the most part, however, it does not do more than repeat reports of what Stalker is alleged to have found. It does not, for example, show the text of Stalker's interim report (although it does show, irrelevantly, a copy of Sampson's report on Stalker). There is no substantiation in the programme of Stalker's alleged findings, other than reports of RTE interviews with witnesses which confirm that their evidence was not used or sought by the RUC in the court cases, and a reported acceptance by Trevor Forbes that he had in fact signed an accident report which Stalker is said to have found to have been false.

There is very little new in the programme that has not been published in recent months in the British press, notably in the Guardian and the Observer (see, for example, Guardian story of 7 October and Observer story of 12 October attached). There have already been reports of Stalker's alleged findings that the Special Branch interfered with the evidence in the McKerr, Toman and Burns case and in the Grew and Carroll case; that the tape of events in the hayshed which resulted in the Tighe killing was withheld by the RUC from the court, that other aspects of that case were covered up and that Tighe's file was tampered with by Special Branch to show Provo connections.

It has already been reported that Stalker was highly critical of the activities of the RUC Special Branch E4 unit and that he was highly critical of what he saw as very dangerous briefing of the soldiers turned policemen in the RUC Mobile Support Units (MSUs). (The programme says Stalker found that they were briefed in a highly charged atmosphere, that they were told that the men they were seeking were extremely dangerous and were wanted and that it was implied to them that they should be brought back dead or alive, when in fact no charges even existed against the men and they were wanted only for questioning). The RUC's tailing of Grew and Carroll in Co. Monaghan on the day of their death is also known (RUC incursions of course emerged at the trial of Constable Robinson

\* Allegation in London dropped by phone for meeting today on Security.

in 1984 for the murder of Grew). The row between the DPP and Hermon, with the Attorney General supporting the DPP, has also been reported.

The programme repeats the alleged finding by Stalker that no instructions existed in the RUC forbidding incursions into the South. (We have been assured to the contrary by the British). It reports the Gardaí as saying they would not tolerate RUC incursions and that although they spotted Grew and Carroll in Co. Monaghan on the day of their death, they did not spot the RUC tail.

A |

The most interesting new (to me) aspect of the programme was the charge that Trevor Forbes, Assistant Chief Constable in charge of the Special Branch, signed a false accident report following the Grew/Carroll killing (the intercepting RUC cars crashed at the scene before Grew and Carroll's arrival). According to the programme Forbes admitted that the signature on the report was his. *Putting accident 50 miles from scene.*

It has been suggested now for some time that Forbes is seriously implicated by Stalker, but that he has made it perfectly clear to Hermon that if he is made to go he will bring Hermon down with him. The programme makes the point that Forbes has reported directly to Hermon rather than through the Senior Assistant Chief Constable who is nominally responsible for coordinating the activities of the Detective Branch and the Special Branch. The programme notes that the Detective Branch is extremely resentful of the Special Branch and told Stalker that they hoped he would succeed, but did not expect him to do so.

Two other points of interest: The programme suggests that the civil insurance cases which have yet to be settled will have an important impact on the affair. Second, Peter Archer, the Labour Party spokesman on Northern Ireland, in response to a question, said that if the Chief Constable was involved in misleading the court about these cases, that fact ought to be made public.

*dr*  
Declan O'Donovan,  
31 October, 1986.

cc: Taoiseach  
Minister  
Minister of Justice  
in Dublin  
in Ireland

Keating  
A-1  
A-1 Secretariat  
1700P