



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2017/4/107
Creation Dates:	18 September 1987
Extent and medium:	4 pages
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

SEC 2/1.

Telefón . }
hone } (01) 780822
Telex 25300



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
Department of Foreign Affairs

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH, 2.
Dublin 2.

Tagairt }
Reference }

18 September 1987

Mr Padraig Collins
Secretariat
Belfast

Dear Padraig

Please find enclosed a copy of a note by Tim O'Connor of 15 September, and subsequent note by myself of 16 September, and a short note of the meeting which I had with Brian Feeney in Belfast last week. All three pieces of paper relate to an allegation made by Feeney that low-level stale intelligence is finding its way from the security forces to Protestant paramilitaries who have used this information in recent assassinations and assassination attempts. He maintains that with the ending of the supergrass system, there is considerable frustration within the security forces at not being able to "get at" known terrorists on both sides. When I met with him in Belfast last week he confirmed that his source of information for this allegation comes from within the RUC.

In support of this allegation, I also enclose for your information, a copy of a report from the Sunday World of 13/9/87 which quotes an admission from the UDA magazine "Combat" that they are in receipt of information from security sources which was used to pinpoint Michael Powers for his assassination.

I would be grateful if our concern regarding allegations of collusion between certain members of the security forces and Protestant paramilitary groups could be raised with the other side. The perception on the part of the nationalist community of any such collusion has an obvious negative impact in terms of the level of acceptance of the security forces on the part of the nationalist community.

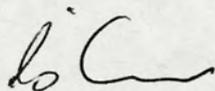
Yours sincerely

Brendan McMahon
First Secretary

Possible collusion between the Security Forces
and Loyalist Paramilitaries

1. Brian Feeney telephoned on 14 September about last week's killing of Patrick Hamill, a Catholic, in West Belfast. He said that he had information to the effect that the killing had been carried out by the UDA and was a case of mistaken identity rather than a "random sectarian job". Apparently the house in Forfar Street where Mr. Hamill lived used to apparently moved out of the house in the spring and was the intended victim of last week's attack. (This theory is partly substantiated by the fact that, on entering the house, the killers are understood to have asked "who lives here?").
2. Dr. Feeney believed that the information about Clarke and Forfar Street would have come from old security forces files and were probably passed to the UDA by the UDR. Apart from the obvious impropriety of any such leaking by the security forces, there was the fact, that it carried the danger of being faulty and out-of-date, and could easily lead, as it did last week, to the deaths of innocent people. Moreover, incidents such as the Hamill killing served to heighten sectarian tensions within the community (since the public were presuming it to be a random sectarian attack).
3. Dr. Feeney referred to the UVF court case at the weekend as further evidence of what he was suggesting. Two alleged members of the UVF were charged with the murder of IRA member Larry Marley. There were rumours at the time of Marley's killing (in April) that the killers were acting on information supplied by the security forces.

4. Dr. Feeney said that such action by the security forces is born out of frustration at being unable to "get at" several known IRA activists (he mentioned a figure of 20). (Equally, there were about 12 gunmen on the loyalist side whom they were unable to touch). Since the ending of the use of supergrasses, the security forces felt that their hands had become tied and an attitude had taken hold along the lines "if we can't do anything about these people we know others who can".



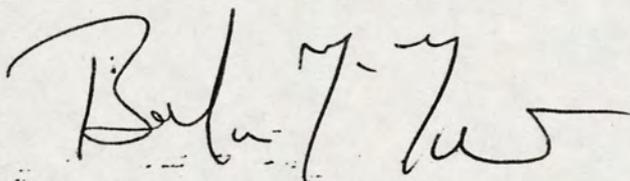
T. O'Connor
Anglo-Irish Section
15 September 1987

2672p

NOTE

Brian Feeney called to file a further report on the security situation in north and west Belfast. Last night there was another attempted assassination where apparently a motorbike was stolen on Danube Street off the Shankill Road. The two men used this motorbike to go to Orient Gardens off the Cliftonville Road where they knocked on the door of the intended victim. He refused to open the door and they fired a number of shots through the door. They then fled and abandoned the motorbike on Alaska Street.

The intended victim worked from time to time as a bus driver bringing prisoners' relatives to the Maze. Feeney's point is that he sees this as another example of low-level intelligence being passed from either the RUC and/or the UDR to the UDA/UVF. He feels this is a growing practice and that this is but another example.



Brendan McMahon

16 September 1987