



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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cc PS010  
PSS

Mr O Tuathail

Section

H-1 Secretariat  
Charles Condon

Statement made shortly after 10.30 AM  
in the Hall by the Minister for Justice

Before I go into the detail of what happened at Emyvale, Co. Monaghan on the evening of Monday last, there are two points that I want to make clear.

*Cl*  
13/5/87  
Rec'd 11.40

There is a long and hallowed tradition in our country of respect for the dead - irrespective of who they are or the circumstances in which they died. Funerals are traditionally dignified occasions, where the feelings of grieving relatives are treated with the utmost regard and sympathy.

In common with the rest of us - after all we are all part of one and the same community - the members of the Garda Síochána know and are aware of and accept that tradition of respect for the dead and for funerals.

But the Gardaí exist for a very specific purpose - to uphold the law of the land. That is their duty - a duty they swear to fulfil without fear or favour when they are inducted into the Garda Síochána. They cannot, and must not be expected, to turn a blind eye or use discretion, where a serious breach of the law is involved. And let there be no mistake about it - the presence of masked men, in paramilitary uniforms, discharging firearms in any part of our territory, is, no matter what the circumstances, a serious offence.

The incidents that occurred on Monday evening related to the funeral of the late James Lynagh. We have another worthy tradition of speaking no ill of the dead, and I will respect that too. I do not propose to say anything of what he was, what he may have done or the manner of his death. The simple fact is that on Monday he was dead and, as an initial stage of his funeral, his body was to be conveyed from Craigavon Hospital to his home. It was obvious to everybody that this would not be a normal funeral - that an exceptionally large crowd could be expected to be in attendance and also that there was the possibility that some form of paramilitary demonstration would take place in breach of the law.

This placed the Gardaí in a most unenviable situation. If the possibility of an unlawful demonstration were to be completely ruled out, Gardaí would have to be in attendance in such numbers and so close to the centre of things that their presence could be regarded as, at best, insensitive and, at worst, as provocative and overbearing. The other alternative was for the Gardaí to respect the dignity that belongs to all funerals, to facilitate the easy passing of the funeral along the route it was to follow, and to maintain a discreet presence to monitor what was happening and to prevent, as far as possible, any unlawful activity from taking place.

This, on the basis of the professional judgement of the senior Garda officers who met to consider the matter, was the action decided upon and this is what Monday evenings Garda operation was designed to achieve.

The funeral, as expected, was a particularly large one, accompanied by a big number of cars. On its way from the border to Monaghan it had to pass through Emyvale which is approximately 5 miles from the border. As arranged, the Gardaí were present in discreet numbers, some in uniform and some, detectives, in plain clothes.

At Emyvale the funeral paused, ostensibly to allow the coffin to be carried through the village. When the hearse stopped, cars from the following cortege blocked the road by parking three abreast across it. The coffin was removed from the hearse and was shouldered, by six men in relays, through the village, flanked on both sides by walking men and women wearing masks and dark glasses. When this procession reached the end of the village the cortege stopped and immediately the crowd, estimated to be in the region of 700, tightened in close around it and linked arms.

At this, three men in battle dress and black "balaclavas" and carrying what appeared to be high-powered rifles, quickly emerged from a nearby laneway. They lined up at the side of the coffin, fired some single shots followed by a burst of shots, before retreating through the crowd, which broke into cheers, facilitated the retreat of the gunmen and obstructed the Gardai, who were close to hand, from pursuing them.

Two Garda detectives, who were manning a car patrolling a side road, observed the fleeing gunmen who were being followed by uniformed Gardai. The detectives' car was observed by the crowd to be blocking the road and preventing the gunmen's escape. The crowd surrounded the car, in which one of the detectives was sitting, and proceeded to heave it over a two feet high wall, to drop it about four feet lower than the road, into a stream about five feet wide and a foot deep. It must be borne in mind that at this stage the life of the Garda inside the car was in considerable danger - apart from any other injury that he might sustain the engine of the car was running so there was a real danger that the car would go on fire.

The detective who remained outside the car, called on the crowd to stop their attack on the car with his colleague inside. As the crowd ignored his call and in view of the imminent danger to his colleague, he then fired six or seven bursts of automatic fire from his submachine gun over the heads of the crowd.

The detective who was in the car which landed on its roof in the stream, succeeded in extricating himself by breaking out through the rear car window. As he emerged from the car he, with two other uniformed Gardai who had been pushed into the stream, were showered with stones by the violently aggressive

crowd. The detective who had fired the earlier shots, at this stage drew his handgun and fired one further shot over the heads of the crowd in an effort to make them disperse and to save his colleagues and himself from possible serious injury.

The crowd then withdrew, the armed men having by this time made good their escape.

A uniformed Sergeant and Garda sustained some injuries which are not thought to be of a serious nature and they and the detective who was in the overturned car suffered a degree of shock.

The entire incident, dramatic and exceedingly violent as it was, took no more than a matter of minutes.

A Ceann Comhairle, I have to exercise great restraint and caution in commenting on the incidents I have just described as I understand that there is every possibility that at least some of those responsible for the outrageous behaviour towards the Gardai, as well as the other matters, will be brought before the Courts and I am anxious that no comment of mine might even appear to be prejudicial to those who will face criminal charges arising out of these events.

I would ask all other Deputies to exercise similar restraint for the same reason.

AN GARDA SIOCHANA

Any reply to this communication should be addressed to:

Commissioner,  
Garda Síochána,  
Phoenix Park,  
Dublin 8.



OIFIG AN CHOIMISINEARA,  
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.  
  
'D' BRANCH,  
GARDA HEADQUARTERS.

and the following number quoted:

D.

Secretary,  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Funeral of James LYNAGH, PIRA., Monaghan.

*Rec'd 12.50 pm*

*cc: 154  
188*

*Mr O Tuathail, Secretary  
Sector 7 A-1*

*[Signature]*  
*12/5*

Attached telex message from the Divisional Office at Monaghan, outlining the course of events which occurred at the removal of the remains of the late James Lynagh PIRA., Monaghan, from Craigavon Hospital to Monaghan on the 11th May, 1987.

Earlier on that date, the Commissioner held a meeting at his office, which was attended by the two Deputy Commissioners and myself, to discuss how the Gardai should police the removal of the remains which we understood were to be taken from Craigavon Hospital direct to the deceased man's parents' home in Clones, Co. Monaghan.

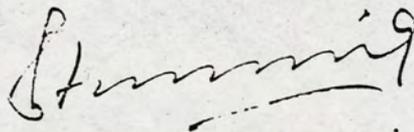
The consensus arrived at was that the Gardai should keep a low profile by not deploying a large force of uniformed Gardai at the removal of the remains. It was decided that an adequate number of uniformed members would be deployed to deal with traffic and a back-up reserve held at Monaghan station to deal with any disturbances that might arise. It was also decided to allocate a suitable number of Detectives to mingle with mourners to prevent, if possible, the firing of shots over the coffin and apprehend any possible offenders.

This direction was passed to the Divisional Office at Monaghan to be followed by further instructions for the

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funeral on Wednesday which would be decided upon after a further Commissioner's meeting in the aftermath of the removal of the remains to Monaghan.

A further meeting will be held this afternoon to consider policing arrangements for to-morrow's funeral in Monaghan.



S. FANNING,  
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER.

12<sup>th</sup> May, 1987.

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BCT-MOM

43655 GSMD EI219/87.

162A ✓

COMMISSIONER D

MESSAGE FROM MONAGHAN

RE: FUNERAL OF JAMES LYNAGH, PIRA.

AT 6.35PM ON 11.5.87 THE FUNERAL PARTY CROSSED THE BORDER AT MOYBRIDGE. THE CORTEGE COMPRISED OF ABOUT 50 CARS AND HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE R.U.C. LANDROVERS.

THE CORTEGE STOPPED A MATTER OF A FEW YARDS FROM THE ACTUAL BORDER LINE ON THIS THE BRIDGE. THE COFFIN WAS REMOVED FROM THE HEARSE AND THE TRICOLOUR, A BERET AND GLOVES WERE PLACED ON IT. SIX UNKNOWN MEN SHOULDERED THE COFFIN ACROSS THE BORDER LINE HEADED BY A LONE PIPER. ABOUT FIFTEEN YARDS SOUTH OF THE BORDER THE COFFIN WAS REPLACED IN THE HEARSE. AFTER A DELAY OF ABOUT FIVE MINUTES THE CORTEGE MOVED OFF VERY SLOWLY TOWARDS EMYVALE A DISTANCE OF ABOUT FIVE MILES.

WHEN THE CORTEGE ARRIVED AT EMYVALE AT ABOUT 7.15PM THERE WERE ABOUT 200 CARS, SOME OF WHICH WERE ORDINARY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON THE MAIN DERRY/DUBLINN ROAD.

ON ARRIVAL IN EMYVALE THE HEARSE STOPPED ON THE RIGHT HAND BEND AS ONE APPROACHES THE VILLAGE FROM THE NORTHERN SIDE. THE CARS IN THE CORTEGE CLOSED THE ROAD BY PARKING THREE ABREASE PEOPLE STARTED TO ALIGHT FROM THE CARS AND GATHER ROUND THE HEARSE. KEVIN KEELAN AND PATRICK ARTHURS - BOTH P.I.R.A. - MARSHALLED THE CROWD AROUND THE HEARSE.

NINE MEN AND TWO WOMEN - ALL MASKED, THE TWO WOMEN WEARING BLACK GLASSES - FORMED UP IN TWO LINES AT THE BACK OF THE HEARSE. THEY STOOD TO ATTENTION AND THE COFFIN WAS REMOVED FROM THE HEARSE AND PLACED ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE SIX MEN. IT THEN MOVED OFF THROUGH THE VILLAGE FLANKED ON BOTH SIDES BY THE COLOUR PARTY. THE CROWD WERE TIGHTLY FLANKING THE COLOUR PARTY ON THE OUTSIDE. THEY CHANGED BEARERS FIVE TIMES. WHEN THEY REACHED THE MONAGHAN END OF THE VILLAGE THE CORTEGE STOPPED AND IMMEDIATELY THE CROWD TIGHTENED IN CLOSE AROUND IT AND LINKED ARMS.

THREE MEN EMERGED FROM A LANEWAY BESIDE THE 'HIGH HOUSE' PUBLIC HOUSE. THESE THREE MEN WERE IN BATTLE DRESS AND WORE BLACK BALACLAVAS. THEY WERE CARRYING RIFLES - WHICH APPEARED TO BE HIGH CALIBRE. THEY LINED UP ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE COFFIN ANND THEY FIRED TWO SINGLE SHOTS EACH AND THEN TWO SHORT BURSTS OF TWO OR THREE SHOTS. THE CROWD CHEERED AND THE GUNMEN RETREATED TO WHERE THEY HAD EMERGED FROM BEHIND THE PUBLIC HOUSE. THE CROWD CLOSED OFF THE ENTRY TO PREVENT GARDAI FOLLOWING THEM.

A DETECTIVE BRANCH CAR MANNED BY DETECTIVE SERGEANT J. DIRWAN, 18083A AND DETECTIVE GARDA EDWARD SWEENEY, 18989H, DRIVER, WHICH HAD BEEN PATROLLING SIDE ROADS ALONG THE ROUTE PARKED TWO HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE VILLAGE OF EMYVALE ON THE ROAD KNOWN AS DRUMMULLY LANE. THEY HAD PARKED THERE WHEN THEY HEARD THE VOLLEY OF SHOTS BEING DISCHARGED. SUDDENLY THEY SAW A NUMBER OF MEN - ONE OF WHOM AT LEAST WAS CARRYING A RIFLE - COMING OUT FROM THE BACK OF THE 'HIGH HOUSE' PUBLIC HOUSE THROUGH GARDENS TOWARDS DRUMMULLY LANE. AT THAT STAGE DETECTIVE SERGEANT DIRWAN AND DETECTIVE GARDA SWEENEY GOT OUT OF THE PATROL CAR TO INTERCEPT THE GUNMEN AND TO PROVIDE COVER FOR UNIFORM GARDAI WHO WERE ALSO TRYING TO INTERCEPT THEM. ONE OF THE GUNMEN GOT INTO THE BACK OF A RED HIACE VAN WHICH HAD BEEN PARKED AT THE REAR ENTRANCE TO MC MAHON'S PUBLIC HOUSE ON DRUMMULLY LANE AND ABOUT A HUNDRED YARDS DISTANT FROM THE DETECTIVE BRANCH CAR. THE DETECTIVE BRANCH CAR WAS BLOCKING THE ROAD - A CAR COULD NOT PASS. A CROWD OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE RAN TOWARDS THE DETECTIVE BRANCH CAR AND THE CROWD WAS FOLLOWED BY THREE VEHICLES - A RED HIACE VAN 737 BI, A SECOND RED HIACE VAN 989 WZU AND A FORD CORTINA.

THE CROWD SHOUTED TO GET DETECTIVE BRANCH CAR OUT OF THE WAY AND 'GET THE BRITISH BASTARDS'. DETECTIVE GARDA SWEENEY GOT BACK INTO THE GARDA CAR BUT AS HE DID THE CROWD SURROUNDED IT AND STARTED TO HEAVE IT OVER A TWO FEET HIGH WALL INTO A STREAM ABOUT FIVE FEET WIDE WITH A FOOT OF WATER AND A DROP OF ABOUT FOUR FEET FROM THE ROAD.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT DIRWAN CALLED ON THE CROWD, WHO WERE IN A VIOLENTLY AGGRESSIVE MOOD, TO STOP. THEY CONTINUED TO HAVE HEAVE THE CAR INTO THE RIVER AND THE DETECTIVE SERGEANT FIRED SIX OR SEVEN BURSTS (25 ROUNDS) OF AUTOMATIC FIRE OVER THEIR HEADS FROM THE UZI SUBMACHINE GUN WHICH HE POSSESSED. SOME OF THE SHOTS WERE FIRED FROM THE ROADSIDE AND MORE FROM A POSITION IN THE BED OF THE RIVER TO PROTECT DETECTIVE GARDA SWEENEY AND UNIFORM MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN PUSHED INTO THE RIVER. DETECTIVE GARDA SWEENEY WAS IN THE CAR - THE ENGINE OF WHICH WAS RUNNING - AND HAD TO BE RELEASED BY BREAKING THE REAR WINDSCREEN. THE CAR IN FACT LANDED ON ITS ROOF IN THE RIVER.

THEN THE CROWD STARTED TO THROW MISSILES AT THE GARDAI IN THE RIVER AND DETECTIVE SERGEANT DIRWAN DREW HIS HANDGUN AND FIRED ONE ROUND OVER THEIR HEADS - HAVING AGAIN CALLED ON THEM TO DESIST. THE CROWD THEN WITHDREW AND THE THREE VEHICLES CARRYING THE GUNMEN - ALREADY REFERRED TO - MADE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE VIA DRUMMULLY LANE.

A UNIFORM SERGEANT AND GARDA RECEIVED SOME INJURIES FROM MISSILES THROWN BY THE CROWD - THEY ARE NOT THOUGHT TO BE OF A SERIOUS NATURE. THEY ARE SUFFERING FROM SHOCK AS IS DETECTIVE GARDA SWEENEY. NO CIVILIANS WERE INJURED AS FAR AS CAN BE ESTABLISHED AT THIS STAGE.

IN THE COURSE OF A FOLLOW UP SEARCH FOR THE VEHICLES CONVEYING THE GUNMEN AND GUNS, A UNIFORM GARDA CAR WAS RAMMED ABOUT FOUR MILES FROM THE SCENE AT EDENMORE, EMYVALE BY ONE OF THE ABOVEMENTIONED VANS DRIVEN BY PATRICK MC KENNA, PIRA, GORTMONEY, EMYVALE. ONLY VERY LITTLE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO THE GARDA CAR IN FACT.

IN THE COURSE OF THE FOLLOW UP SEARCHES A SUSPECT CAR - BELIEVED TO BE A SILVER TOYOTA COROLLA - WAS INTERCEPTED AT DAVAGH CROSS ABOUT A MILE AND A HALF FROM EMYVALE VILLAGE. PATRICK O'NEILL, PIRA, EMYVALE RAN FROM THIS CAR (WHICH HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED TO DATE) AND WAS PURSUED THROUGH THE FIELDS BY GARDAI. HE WAS ARRESTED UNDER SECTION 30 OF THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE STATE ACT AND IS PRESENTLY BEING DETAINED AT MONAGHAN STATION. HE

HAS IN POSSESSION OF TWO WALKIE TALKIE SETS WHEN ARRESTED.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT VINCENT MC ANESPIE, PIRA, MAIN STREET, EMYVALE WAS ONE OF THE GUNMEN WHO FIRED THE SHOTS. AT THE MOMENT WE ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH IF HE CAN BE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED.

MEANWHILE THE CORTEGE MOVED OFF FROM EMYVALE VILLAGE TO MONAGHAN WHERE THE REMAINS OF JAMES LYNAGH WERE TAKEN TO HIS FLAT AT 27 DUBLIN STREET, MONAGHAN. THERE WERE NO FURTHER INCIDENTS. FOLLOW UP SEARCHES AND ENQUIRIES ARE STILL IN PROGRESS IN AN EFFORT TO LOCATE THE GUNMEN/VEHICLES, GUNS, ETC.

THE BURIAL IS AFTER 11AM MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL, MONAGHAN ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH MAY, 1987.

SENT ON BEHALF OF CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT M MC QUINN, MONAGHAN

12.5.87

12.30AM

END