



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2017/10/26
Creation Dates:	8 September 1987
Extent and medium:	2 pages
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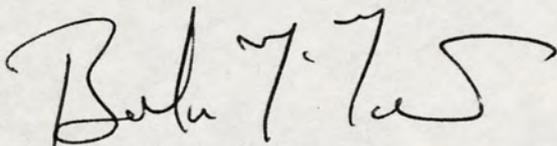
NOTE

I had a meeting on 8 September with one of our usual sources. This was an introductory meeting so the conversation was quite general. He made one or two points of some interest:

- Some unionists had been toying with the idea some time ago of teasing out the possibilities of a meeting of minds between the Unionists and the new Fianna Fail Government on the Agreement with the general idea that Fianna Fail might prefer to operate the Agreement on a Dublin/London basis with no particular or significant Belfast content and that this might allow for movement at the Belfast end in terms of devolution etc. He thought these speculations had now died down.

- The recent arrest and extradition of the UDR man (Fletcher): On this he heard from reliable sources that Fletcher was certainly not of stable mind and had apparently stolen two general purpose machine guns (GPMG) and 11 rifles. In addition he apparently stole one or two flare guns and some SLRs which had been converted to 22 calibre use. These were sold to the UDA who purchased everything except the 22 calibre weapons. No pistols or hand guns were stolen. (It is rumoured that he was stopped leaving the barracks where the sentry pointed out that the guns were rattling around in the back of the truck and helped Fletcher to stack them properly in the back of the van!) The UDA men involved are confident that no charge against them can be made to stick owing to his unstable condition. Having sold the guns, the UDA men drove him, at his request, to Dundalk and left him there. There was a fair amount of reluctance on the part of the RUC to admit that the theft had included two GPMG's (one of which has now been recovered).

- The Cook T.V. report had caused a certain amount of flurry within the UDA. The main gangster in the organisation - Craig, nonetheless continues his activities with a very opulent lifestyle. There is no attempt by McMichael or Tyrrie to change that situation. His assessment is that Craig is in fact more powerful than either of them and passes on to the UDA an amount from the rackets which he (Craig) considers appropriate. He was under the impression that the rackets operated by the Provos tended to operate more smoothly with less money sticking to the fingers of those operating the rackets.
- The introduction of a new type of home-made grenade by the IRA based on plastic explosive is apparently causing great concern to the RUC. The RUC depend heavily on armoured landrovers but apparently these new hand grenades are capable of ripping open the armour plating of these landrovers.



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11 September, 1987.

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