



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2018/28/2208
Creation Dates:	5 January 1988
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
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MA Sec 5.3.1
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Meeting with (

Belfast, 5 January 1988

He reported that his sources had told him that a joint UDA/UVF operation had succeeded in importing a sizeable number of weapons in recent weeks. He did not know how many but he thought a sizeable number in their terms would be about 70 weapons. The weapons consisted of Kalashnikov rifles, Uzi sub-machine guns and a number of hand guns. The weapons have not been distributed for use but have been "stored away for use in any doomsday situation".

He provided a detailed briefing on the background to the assassination of John McMichael, which I have reported separately. This would appear to point to the assassination having been arranged by senior UDA figures and carried out by the Provos.

He reported that some sources close to Peter Robinson had told him "to expect something this week" in relation to the talks about talks. It would appear that Molyneaux and Paisley may bring in more fluent people to write their promised paper which he thought would more than likely be a proposal for some form of administrative devolution. He reported the Unionist leadership as being conscious of the fall-off in attendance at party meetings and were worried by this development. However, he saw no great change in the Unionist political stance in 1988 as the psychological impact of the Anglo-Irish Agreement had yet to be fully absorbed by the rank and file of Unionists. There is still the hope that it will somehow disappear and, in his view, until that hope appears to be finally frustrated, there can be little possibility for any movement towards the real compromise which would be required for devolution. Any movement at this point in time would be torpedoed by Paisley.

Bulu 7.7.87

Brendan McMahon,
8 January 1987.

c.c. A/Sec. Gallagher
A-I Counsellors
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cc A/Sec Gallagher
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Mr Magner D/Justice

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