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Mr. O'Donovan

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Following a discussion which I had with him last week, Brian Feeney phoned this morning with some information which he had received from his sources in the security forces regarding recent loyalist arms shipments. According to them, the shipment was an amalgamation of three shipments destined for three different organisations - UDA, UVF and Ulster Resistance. This confirms to some extent what our usual source had told us earlier that it was a joint UDA/UVF shipment. The shipment was valued at about £150,000 and came from commercial interests in the Middle East. The UVF managed to transport their share the day before the UDA - who were caught in the act. This has led to some suspicion between the UDA and UVF. According to Feeney's course, the shipment was arranged by Ulster Resistance and masterminded by Northern Ireland businessmen.

This alleged involvement by Ulster Resistance is a particularly interesting development. You will recall that this organisation was established by Peter Robinson in November 1986 with a number of public rallies attended by Robinson and Paisley. Since that time, nothing has been heard of the organisation. However, at a meeting with our usual source some months ago (already reported) he expressed some surprise that the three people lifted for the big Portadown robbery (where about £300,000 was stolen) consisted of one UDA, one UVF and one Ulster Resistance. This was the first time he had heard of any activity by Ulster Resistance.

Comment: While the RUC have been successful in capturing the UDA's share of the shipment and catching Davy Payne into the bargain, it must be a cause for concern that the rest of this large shipment would appear, at this stage, to have been successfully stored/distributed. The alleged emergence of Ulster Resistance as an active paramilitary force is also particularly sinister. I will meet our usual contact next week to see if any further information is available on these developments.

Brendan 7.7.88

Brendan McMahon

18 January 1988

cc Section

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