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INTERVIEW WITH SEAMUS MALLON, RADIO ULSTER NEWS AT 1.00 p.m., 29 JUNE 1988

Interviewer: Mr. Mallon, what is your reaction to this Police Authority decision?

Mallon: Well, I am not surprised. I have been watching with great interest the performance of the Police Authority during this whole period of the shoot-to-kill incidents and I have not been impressed by the way in which they have performed. I am astounded, though, that they have released details of the vote because I think there is a clear message in that and the message is this, that even within the Police Authority that the Chief Constable and the other two senior officers involved do not command the confidence of all of the Northern Ireland Police Authority. In effect, almost half of that Authority don't have the confidence in those three men. And I think because of that that they should do the decent and the honourable thing. They should resign immediately. I think it is shameless that they should remain in office, not only when they do not command the confidence of a very substantial body of opinion in the North of Ireland but in addition to that, of their own Police Authority.

Interviewer: Let me quote to you, and you may already have read for yourself what the Police Authority has said. Mr. Kelly who has completed his investigation has assured the Authority that his investigations did not bring to light any matter which might suggest the commission of a disciplinary offence by any of the chief officers. Mr. Sampson advise the Authority that in his view disciplinary proceedings would not be justified against any of the chief officers. Haven't these investigations now, and they have been exhaustive, demonstrated that there is no justification for any further investigation as to the possibility of disciplinary offences?

Mallon: What it has demonstrated is that in terms of officialdom there is not the will to further investigate these. It is impossible, it would have been totally impossible for the type of operations that we saw at Armagh, at Ballynewry, at Lurgan, the shoot-to-kill incidents, for those to take place without the knowledge of senior police officers and very senior police officers.

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Interviewer: But it's not the view of officialdom, Mr. Mallon, that there is no further cause for pursuing the possibility of offences, it is the view of the senior policemen who were called in to investigate these very serious matters.

Mallon: Are you suggesting to me, or is anybody else suggesting that it would have been possible for this type of operation to take place on a recurring basis without the knowledge of senior police officers? Are you suggesting to me that it would have been possible for a senior police officer or more than one senior police officer to conspire to pervert the course of justice, as was shown in a court of law and as was recognised by the Attorney General himself, without in effect this being known at the very highest level? I suggest to you that anybody who believes that is living in cloud cuckoo land. It is very obvious that the units involved in this were set up officially by the RUC. At least one of the people involved was responsible for organising it and for its operations. At least one of the persons involved was responsible for the whole operation of the Special Branch and are you saying to me now, or is anybody saying, that the matter now rests with junior officers, that they were responsible? I suggest to you that would be very unjust indeed. Those who are in authority must bear responsibility for what happened and they must do it in the most constructive way possible to them now and that is by removing themselves from the policing scene in the North of Ireland.

Interviewer: Mr. Mallon, what happens now? The Police Authority has given its verdict that there is no cause for further investigation of possible offences by the three police officers concerned.

Mallon: I think the Secretary of State in the interests of good policing in the North of Ireland, in the interests of the process of justice in the North of Ireland and in the interest of the people of the North of Ireland, should ask these three men to resign. I think it is shameless if they do not do so.