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KELLY COMMENTS ON OMBUDSMAN REPORT INTO CAIRNS BROTHERS MURDERS

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Commenting on the Police Ombudsman's report into the murder of brothers Gerard and Rory Cairns in Bleary, County Armagh in 1993, SDLP Upper Bann MLA and Policing Board member Dolores Kelly stated:

"The murders of Gerard and Rory Cairns occurred during one of the bloodiest and most brutal weeks of the troubles. Throughout the intervening years the family has continued to seek truth and justice in relation to the killings. Their efforts must be acknowledged and supported.

The Police Ombudsman has found no evidence of collusion in the planning and carrying out of the murders but many people in the local community believe that there may have been protection of high level informers in the aftermath of the killings. The fact the investigation was effectively wound down in the first weeks after the killing is a cause for great concern.

Today's report further underlines the need for the new beginning to policing and vindicates the work done by the SDLP in driving that agenda forward. A fully accountable and representative police service which justifies the confidence of the entire community is crucial in moving away from the dark days of the past. While collusion has not been proved in this particular case it only highlights the needs for highest standards and best practice to be upheld in the investigation of all crimes."

ENDS

30-10-07

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