



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Note on arrest of Loyalist hit squad in West Belfast

1. Brian Feeney told me that the Loyalist hit squad, intercepted by the RUC at the Finaghy railway bridge last weekend, is regarded as an extremely powerful and dangerous one. The arrest of Samuel McCrory is particularly important, as he is believed to have shot the solicitor Pat Finucane. He is also believed to have shot Eamonn Quinn, the victim of a sectarian killing at Kashmir Road in Clonard in Summer 1990; and Hughes, a taxi driver killed at Divis Street last July. (The widows of Quinn and Hughes have been in touch with Feeney on this point: apparently McCrory has a distinctive "red devil" tattoo beside his eye). The widows are extremely anxious that McCrory not be allowed out on bail. *Wikipedia page*
2. McCrory and co, (who are psychologically hardened against interrogation - Feeney said that one of them, according to a source in the RUC, lay down on the floor and whistled when questioned) are represented by Richard Monteith, a solicitor from Lurgan/Portadown, who regularly represents UDA/UVF figures.
3. According to section records, McCrory and three other men (John Adair, John Thompson and Thomas Irvine) were arrested and charged in August 1990 with attempted murder of, among others, former Sinn Fein Councillor Sean Keenan and Katherine Spruce, an alleged RUC informer from Shankhill. The charges were dropped.
4. Feeney's information is that Adair is currently involved with another Loyalist hit squad which is still on the loose.
5. Feeney's assessment is that the RUC, who clearly were

acting on a tip-off, are jubilant at having apprehended this gang. In the nationalist community, apart from doubts that Republican paramilitaries would have emerged alive from such a confrontation with the RUC, there is quiet satisfaction that the gang have been caught. The expectation now is that they must be firmly dealt with in the Courts.

Declan Kelleher

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24 July 1992

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Dave
cc Dr. Hennessy ✓
Dr. J. Farrell ✓
Sextant ✓
Dr. S. Hughes. Objective ✓