



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
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<b>Reference Code:</b>	2021/46/304
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PA- Collusion / Nelson Decker. PA Security. D# 28892  
M. McKittrick  
Mr. Manning  
Mr. [unclear]  
for [unclear] + [unclear]  
[unclear]

**SECRET**

MEETING WITH DAVID MCKITTRICK. 13 AUGUST 1992

I met David McKittrick in Belfast. The following points of interest emerged in our discussion:

Proscription of the UDA

- the RUC and NIO were staying close to Mayhew's official line. He felt from his contacts that there were essentially three reasons behind the decision:
  - the upsurge in UDA violence over recent months, notably the killings at the betting shop on the Ormeau Road;
  - he believes that the NIO/RUC have arrived at the conclusion that there is no scope of evolution towards a more political approach on the part of the present Inner Council of the UDA. (That said, McKittrick commented, as on previous occasions, that he was in any event never convinced of the depth or seriousness of John McMichael's political approach, reflected in the "Common Sense" Document of 1987). He sees no effective difference now between the UVF and the UDA - a point which he has brought out in his reporting;
  - proscription of the UDA clears the way for a security crackdown on the Provisionals. (He was not aware of any specific measures e.g. internment, envisaged in this regard).
  
- McKittrick is curious as to why the UDA have not been proscribed in Scotland, since a decision to do so under the PTA would involve the expenditure of minimal political capital. Answering his own question, he believes from his contacts in Scotland that the Scottish police have heavily penetrated Loyalist groups there.

- he was dismissive of recent media reports of a split in the Inner Council of the UDA, and that a new "Official UDA" had come into being. (This split, according to the "Sunday Times", which first ran the story, was supposed to be a manifestation of internal opposition to the brutality of the UDA's new, more ruthless Inner Council). He was similarly dismissive of a subplot of the split i. e. an allegation of a "Kincora-type" sex scandal at UDA H. Q. allegedly involving the East Belfast Intelligence Officer of the UFF, an individual who, according to reports, is well-known in Northern Ireland sporting circles. The individual in question is one Tommy McDevitt, a bodybuilder of limited intelligence, who was the doorman at UDA H. Q. (He is well known for performing feats of strength in Loyalist clubs - his best known party piece was to blow up hot water bottles until they burst). In the past, McDevitt had apparently been involved in sexual escapades with under-age girls and had been protected by Andy Tyrle. He is now in Crumlin Road, a somewhat pathetic figure and has attempted suicide.

Michael Mates

- McKittrick is alarmed at Mates's simplistic approach to security issues and fears that this is a recipe for continuing trouble. His understanding is that Mates was closely involved in the recent decisions not to offset from their sentences the time spent in custody in the U. S. by Joe Doherty and in this jurisdiction by Michael "Beaky" McKee. McKittrick is concerned at the absence of a strong counterbalance to Mates in the Prisons Directorate and contrasted unfavourably the new Director, Shannon, with his predecessor, John Steele.

Channel 4 "Dispatches" Programme

- he was scathing about Channel 4 and Box Productions. He was particularly critical of Sean McPhilemy, the Managing

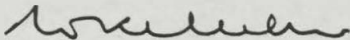
Director of Box Productions and producer of the documentary. Responding to approaches from McPhilemy, "The Independent" had asked McKittrick to do a story on the "Inner Circle" last year. McKittrick responded that the allegations of an "Inner Circle" were stale and dubious and refused to do the story.

- McKittrick has found no evidence of an "Inner Circle" of the type posited by Channel 4 (there are of course traditional Masonic networks) and he is sceptical of the theory that there exists a powerful cadre of Loyalist-connected professional people who direct and act in concert with Loyalist paramilitaries.
- McKittrick commented on the apparent contradiction in the RUC's approach: on the one hand the RUC have dismissed Channel 4's allegations. On the other, they have pursued Channel 4 relentlessly in the Courts, using the PTA in an unprecedented manner. McKittrick attributes this to a deep-seated vindictiveness on the part of the RUC to journalists who cross them. He has experienced it himself in petty ways after stories critical of the RUC e.g. late receipt of RUC press releases. He is of the view that the RUC have capitalised on a poorly prepared TV documentary to extend their powers over the media on the pretext of pursuing information (the identity of Mr. "A", the unidentified Loyalist source) which is probably already known to them.
- in summary, McKittrick is angry that Channel 4 were not in command of their research material, mishandled the issue, handed an easy victory to the RUC, and have queered the pitch badly for serious investigative journalism in Northern Ireland. He commented that Alan Murray has refused to deal with Channel 4 in response to recent approaches they made to him - an approach with which he is in sympathy.

- McKittrick referred to a recent article (hostile to Channel 4 and presumably reflecting RUC concerns) in the "Sunday Express" which quotes Martin O' Hagan of the Sunday World (apparently the Channel 4 team's chief local journalist contact who has been vilified by the RUC as an ex-IRA member with a conviction for arms possession) to the effect that, whereas he (O' Hagan) had written about an Inner Circle in the past, he reportedly believes that there is no hard evidence for it and asserts that Hamilton (the Channel 4 researcher) had misread the information he gave to him. The Sunday Express also highlights the role in the making of the programme of John (Jackie) Whitten, a well-known Loyalist from Portadown who, the Sunday Express state, was Channel 4's primary source and who reportedly states that the programme makers never mentioned an Inner Circle to him. This article also seeks to discredit the claims by McPhilemy of death threats and insinuates that there are financial irregularities in the programme's budget.

Brian Nelson

- Nelson is in D Wing of Crumlin Road and is persistently requesting a transfer to Britain. Alex Maskey of Sinn Fein has taken an interest in the compensation claims of the widows of Nelson's victims, notably the widows of McDaid and Slane. The NIO have discovered to their delight that McDaid was on the "double", and are thus adopting a niggardly attitude to Mrs. McDaid's compensation claim.



Declan Kelleher  
17 August, 1992