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7 April 1992

Secure Fax No. 288

For: Sean Farrell

From: Declan Kelleher

Shooting of Danny Cassidy

1. We are concerned at the reports of ongoing harassment of Danny Cassidy of Kilrea, prior to his murder by the UDA last week.
2. For your own information, I spoke to John Dallat, the local SDLP Councillor last night, who confirmed that he had made a complaint to the RUC some days ago about the harassment of Cassidy by the DMSU but that the RUC had initially refused to acknowledge that a complaint had been made. He mentioned one incident in particular, which took place last Thursday: a gun was held to the head of Mr. Cassidy by DMSU members and he was thrown against a pick-up truck. I also spoke, at Mr. Dallat's suggestion, to Fr. McKenna of Kilrea who had witnessed a person whom he was subsequently told was Cassidy being held against a wall of the New Point Inn at Kilrea a week before his death.
3. Dallat, who has good relations with the local RUC, was surprised that they denied that he had made a complaint about the harassment of Cassidy. He found it odd that the RUC were prepared to be responsive to his complaint in private but had not been prepared to reflect this in their public statements. That said, he told me that two RUC officers had called on him shortly before I spoke to him and that they had now accepted that Dallat had indeed made a complaint about harassment of Cassidy. (This is reflected in today's Irish Times piece on the subject).
4. Dallat's principal RUC interlocutor has been Chief Supt.

Cecil Morrison. Dallat emphasised to me that the harassment problem was with the DMSU and not with the local RUC, of whom Dallat has a high opinion (Fr. McKenna also made this point to me). He had asked Morrison to ensure that the DMSU not be deployed in Kilrea and believes that Morrison is receptive on this point. He also asked Morrison that DMSU units should be accompanied by regular RUC, as with the UDR. Dallat was particularly concerned at the highly visible concentration by the DMSU on Cassidy, which has led to a situation where some local people are claiming that Cassidy was shot by the police.

5. Dallat recalled in passing that last year, the DMSU who in his experience are aggressive, had problems, involving violent confrontations, with Loyalists at Garvagh, concerning an illegal march.

6. We would be grateful if you could raise the Cassidy harassment case with the other side. In particular, we would be grateful for a report on the reported harassment of Cassidy in the period leading up to his murder and a briefing on the operation of the DMSU in the Kilrea area. You might convey our concerns at the reports that Cassidy was interviewed in a highly public way which would appear to have attracted Loyalist interest in him as a target, and provided clues to his movements. We would be grateful also for an account of how the RUC intend to approach the complaint that has been made by Mr. Dallat. We would wish to be kept informed of developments in this case.

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