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Meeting with Fr. Raymond Murray. 4 February 1993

I met Fr. Murray at his residence in Armagh. The following points of interest arose in our discussion.

Loyalist violence

- he reiterated his concerns at the vulnerability of nationalist families in the mid-Ulster area to Loyalist attack, particularly from the UVF cell in Portadown (the cell in which Billy Wright, aka "King Rat" is a prominent gunman) and his fears of a backlash by the Provisional IRA. I underlined to him our concerns in this area and drew his attention to the previous day's Anglo-Irish Conference and the importance which the Tánaiste attached to combatting violence, with particular reference to the upsurge of Loyalist violence. He was gratified on this score and also spoke approvingly of the priority accorded to the lethal force issue (a particular interest of his) within the Conference framework.

- We discussed again (c. f. my report of my previous meeting with him on 21 October 1992) the Provo view that the Rev. William McCrea of the DUP plays a key role in the mid-Ulster UVF, and is involved in the planning of UVF killings. Fr. Murray said that this remains the perception of the Provos and referred to a contact he had had with a leading Provo from Tyrone who had voiced this view. Fr. Murray felt that McCrea's statement condemning the UVF murder of Eugene Martin in South Derry may have been designed to cover himself at a time when matters were threatening to get out of hand and speculated that McCrea may have been warned that he is at risk.

- there remains substantial local nationalist fear and apprehension at the perceived failure of the security

forces to prevent Loyalist assassinations and the lack of detention of Loyalist killers by the RUC and continuing suspicion of ad hoc collusion between individual members of the RUC and Loyalist killers. Fr. Murray, who has referred to this aspect in the past, mentioned the belief (which he shares) that elements in the Special Branch and the elite quick-reaction Divisional Mobile Support Units (DMSUs) at the least pass information to Loyalists.

- he is convinced (a view which is circulating widely among nationalists in the North and which Fr. Faul, with whom he keeps in close contact, also put to me) that the DUP in particular are using Loyalist violence as an instrument of pressure on nationalists and the Irish Government in the political arena and expressed the hope that the Government would be under no illusion about the dark side of Unionism should the talks resume. I reassured him on these points;
- he gave me a copy of the submission which he planned to make to the Opsahl Commission. (It is a critique of the RUC and a call for a reformed police force, respectful of the nationalist ethos and with a greater focus on non-paramilitary policing, along lines which he has aired a number of times in the past);
- he had no instances of harassment of young nationalists to report and remarked that matters are not particularly bad at present. He raised a case of CID pressure on a young University student (the son of Seamus Grew, of the Stalker shoot to kill affair who has spent most of his formative years in Australia) to become an informer. We have taken this up through the Secretariat.



Declan Kelleher
8 February, 1993

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