



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Sinn Fein press release on South African arms importations

Gerry Adams's press release of 7 January accuses the British Army of collusion in allowing the South African arms importation of early 1988 to take place. The supporting facts and arguments are already known to us. They have been assembled by Sinn Fein on the basis of press reports e.g.:-

- they have closely analysed the testimony of 'Colonel J' at Nelson's trial;
- they accuse the Dublin Government of ignoring the collusion issue;
- Adams intends to distribute the document to, inter alios, TDs. We should therefore expect correspondence and, perhaps, the odd p.q.;
- based on press reports, Sinn Fein construct a picture of Loyalist/South Africa links pointing, inter alia, to kith and kin ties, the role of Richard Wright of Portadown, uncle of Alan Wright (leader of the Ulster Clubs) and an employee of ARMSCOR, the South African Government arms company;
- the hunger of Wright and ARMSCOR for military technology from Shot's is described;
- Sinn Fein pick up Nelson's well known trip in 1985 to South Africa under cover of attending a Barry McGuigan fight in London;
- a link is made between Richard Wright's activities and the "Blowpipe missile" affair in Paris in 1988;
- the claim that Nelson was an agent since 1975 is repeated, as is the "Private Eye" claim that his visit to

South Africa was cleared by a British Government Minister;

- the DPP's role in dropping charges against Nelson in return for his silence is emphasised;
- a detailed description of the 1988 arms importation is given, as is the assertion that Military Intelligence let the shipment in. Panorama is cited as the source for this assertion, which is based on Nelson's jail journal;
- the fact that Noel Little (one of the three Loyalists arrested in Paris) is played up;
- emphasis is placed on the failure of the British authorities to seek extradition of the three Loyalists;
- the appearance of the South African weapon in subsequent murders is referred to;
- the final question is: of how many other shipments, tolerated by the British Army, have occurred?

Declan Kelleher
9 February, 1993

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