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Meeting with contact on Loyalist paramilitary activities.

Belfast 27 May 1994

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John
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On Friday last, I met an informed contact whom I see from time to time in Belfast regarding Loyalist paramilitary activities. The following points of interest arose:

UVF attack on Widow Scallan's

- several days prior to our meeting he had been in touch with Bunter Graham (a UVF leader from the Shankill, who has recovered from bad injuries he received in an INLA assassination attempt early last year). He saw nothing in Graham's approach to suggest any move towards a political agenda. His appreciation, on the basis of his contacts, is that the UVF will continue to crow about the audacity of their attack (notwithstanding the fact that the bomb failed to detonate) and they will be pleased at the publicity splash it made;
- my contact said that, on the basis of his understanding and recent contacts, he would be surprised if the UVF attempt a further such attack in Dublin in the short term. They are influenced by reports of increased vigilance, surveillance etc. by the Gardaí. My contact suggested that periodic announcements of increased vigilance by the security forces in this jurisdiction would have a significant deterrent effect;
- he is sceptical of claims that the subsequent Loyalist bomb at City Hall (which injured two Protestant workmen) was a successful detonation by remote control. In any event, he noted that the operation had backfired with the wounding of two clearly visible Protestant workmen;

- he has never been convinced by UVF claims that they are less sectarian than the UDA, and is dismissive of the UVF's efforts to project a political veneer. The UVF are happy to carry out sectarian attacks, while invoking as justification any attenuated Republican link they can find, (he mentioned as an example the murder of the shopkeeper Browne in the docks last month, who turned out to have been on a list of internees in the 1970s and was therefore a "Republican"). Similarly, the UVF, in carrying out a spate of sectarian attacks in the North Armagh/East Tyrone regions some time ago (and the recent attack on Rose Anne Mallon near Dungannon) could state that these were the families of IRA members and, therefore, not just random sectarian targets;

- In his view, senior UVF figures such as Gusty Spence are less influential within the UVF than they once were. The UVF is at the stage of the UDA in the 1980s when Andy Tyrrie and his senior colleagues began to lose a degree of control. In the final analysis, recruits join the UVF to shoot people and it is unwise in his view to ascribe significant political consciousness to the Loyalist paramilitaries. There had been talk in UVF circles that they had been sent a paper by the Taoiseach, but it had appeared to make little impact;

- he is sceptical of Roy Magee. While Magee is active and knowledgeable, he believes that Magee's availability to the media and interest in publicity is not entirely compatible with the serious role he sees for himself with the UDA and UVF;

Attitudes in the Unionist community

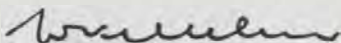
- Like other recent interlocutors, he is struck by the growing view in the Unionist community that Sinn Fein's involvement at centre stage of the peace process indicates that violence pays. In addition, deep

suspensions of the South's intentions remain, notwithstanding the Irish Government's repeated assertions that the Unionist community has nothing to fear;

Attitudes in the Shankill

- there are mixed reactions in the Shankill to the UDA at present. A significant section of the community there, while obviously uneasy at the overall drift of political events as they see them, were unhappy that the UDA confronted the RUC and orchestrated rioting in response to the recent charging of Johnny Adair (UDA Commander in West Belfast);

- Notwithstanding the optimistic claims by Adair's defence lawyer, the UDA have effectively concluded that Adair will be convicted and put away under Section 27 of the EPA (directing terrorist organisations). It seems that Adair regularly bragged to RUC men and soldiers at checkpoints of his leading role in the UDA and of his paramilitary prowess and achievements. The UDA expect that a number of soldiers and policemen will give damning evidence to this effect at the trial.



Declan Kelleher

30 May, 1994

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