

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ANGLO - IRISH DIVISION
80, ST. STEPHENS GREEN
DUBLIN 2
IRELAND

No: 56

URGENT

COVER SHEET.

SECURE FAX

To: Kieran Dowling
From: Colm Ó Floinn
Fax Nr.:
Subject: Remarks on alleged UDA/UFF activity in Donegal
Date: 12 February 1998
Pages: 1, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS

5.09

(cc Secretary Gallagher for info)

1. Pl. see the attached statement apparently issued by Pat Doherty of SF concerning allegations of UDA/UFF activity in Donegal. I received this from Frank Boughton, D/Justice at a meeting on IED arrangements this morning with a request that views from the other side be sought.

2. He mentioned that it may also be linked to recent speculation surrounding the death on 2 January in a car crash of Nigel Birnie from the Waterside (relevant press cuttings and death notice from the Belfast Telegraph attached). At the time we had heard from a Derry source of speculation that Birnie was involved in loyalist paramilitary activity and asked D/Justice for any obs, including from the Garda. You will have seen that the Garda were quoted in the media as indicating that there was nothing suspicious about the crash. At this morning's meeting the Garda representative said that in response to a Garda query the RUC had stated that there was no trace on any of the three men travelling in the car which crashed.

3. Grateful if you would ask the British side for their views on the attached.

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at this time.

Mr Doherty said:

11/2/98

There have been consistent reports over recent weeks of loyalist death squad members using daily and weekend distribution systems to engage i information gathering throughout the county. Members of UDA/UFF from Derry have been travelling as passengers in distribution vans, often taking side roads away from the normal distribution routes.

To date they have been in Buncrana, Carndonagh, Letterkenny, Ballybofe Donegal Town, Milford, Carrigart, Creeslough, Dungloe, Gweedore.

This incident adds weight to concern that a loyalist attack is pending.

There is need for great caution and vigilance at this time.

End of Press release.

It is expected that the above Press Release will be on Evening News.

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