

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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NORTHERN IRELAND
Information Service

1. Mr McKee
2. Mr O'Kane
RA CUF

13 May 1997

STATEMENT ISSUED BY ADAM INGRAM, MP, MINISTER OF STATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY AND THE ECONOMY ON THE MURDER OF SEAN BROWN, INSTRUCTOR AT BALLYMENA TRAINING CENTRE

"My heartfelt sympathy goes to Mr Brown's wife and family, his friends and his colleagues at Ballymena Training Centre.

"This was a particularly horrific murder of a man going about his business. It was a pointless and barbaric act and does nothing to advance the search for peace and stability in Northern Ireland.

"Mr Brown had devoted nearly a quarter of a century to serving the public and teaching young people to develop the skills needed to help them find work in today's competitive world. He also served the community in his voluntary work.

"The people of Northern Ireland want, and have a right, to live peacefully in an environment which will allow them to build a prosperous future for their children and generations to come.

"I appeal to members of the public to help the RUC in any way they can in their efforts to solve this cruel murder. There must be no hiding place for these evil killers."

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PST, PSS
S/S Ó hUiginn
Counsellors A-I Section
Messrs. Teahon, Donlon & Dalton
Ambassadors London & Washington
~~Joint Secretary~~

Mr. McKee
Ms O Broin
Box

Secure Fax: 459

13 May 1997

No of pages including this one: 4

To: HQ
For: C O Floinn

From: Belfast
From: K Dowling

In LVF

Subj: Update report on murder of Sean Brown (Randalstown)

1. The British side here have just provided the following incident report update (1400hrs) on the above:

"Further details of the murder of the man found beside a burnt-out car, with a gunshot wound to his head. He has now formally been identified as Sean Brown, a married man (believed to be about 60 years old) of Castle Street, Bellaghy. He is also believed to be an employee of the Department of Economic Development, working in the Ballymena Training Centre. Mr Brown's name has not been released by the RUC but news reports have identified him.

Background

The RUC have been able to confirm that Sean Brown was abducted last night by persons unknown from the Bellaghy GAA Club at approximately 11.30pm as he was locking up the premises where he is a prominent member. I understand that he is the chairman or treasurer of the club. It would appear he was bundled into his own car, the Ford Sierra found burnt out near Randalstown. His body was found beside the car in the early hours of this morning when a passing motorist reported seeing the burning car to the police.

At this stage of the RUC's murder investigation a motive for the murder is not established. The cause could be linked to a robbery or to sectarianism. The police have held a media conference confirming the death is being treated as murder and have appealed for anyone with information to contact them. They have also confirmed that there are signs of a struggle at the GAA Club at Bellaghy which would appear to be linked to the find of Mr Brown's body in Randalstown. As yet the RUC do not know if Mr Brown was shot in Bellaghy or Randalstown.

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SECURE FAX: 456

DATE: 13 May 1997 **PAGES:** 1

TO: HQ **FROM:** BELFAST

FOR: E Mc Kee **FROM:** C O'Shea

Please cc D/Justice

pa CUF

SITUATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD: 0700 HOURS MONDAY 12 MAY TO 0700 HOURS TUESDAY 13 MAY 1997

SECURITY

1330 hours Belfast — 19 year old man taken from shop in Short Strand area of Belfast by three masked men to house and assaulted for allegedly breaking into an old woman's house. Treated in hospital for injuries. (NSI).

0014 hours — Body of a man found beside a burnt out car on Moneymick Road, Randalstown with a wound to head, suspected to be a gunshot. Man not yet identified. Murder investigation underway.

Four more persons charged with attempted murder of Ivan Hetherington in Waterside area of Londonderry over the weekend.

Note: Teletext (2.30pm) reports RUC belief that victim is a Catholic (59 years) abducted from Bellaghy GAA Club.

(Seán Brown Chairman.)

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SECURE FAX: 467

DATE: 13 May 1997 **PAGES:** 1

TO: HQ **FROM:** BELFAST

FOR: E McKee **FROM:** C O'Shea

Please cc D/Justice

SITUATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD: 0700 HOURS TUESDAY 13 MAY TO 0700 HOURS WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 1997

SECURITY

Update Sean Brown Murder	At 1430 hours a male caller telephoned the BBC to say that the Loyalist Volunteer Force was responsible for the Sean Brown murder because "of the re-routing of loyalist parades", the telephonist thinks he mentioned a town, but he did not use a recognised code word.
0120 hours Milford, Armagh	A Catholic taxi driver (from a firm that uses mainly Catholic drivers), tried to deliver takeaway food to a house in Milford, Armagh, but there was no reply. When he was getting back into his taxi a masked man with a handgun approached the vehicle. There was a scuffle and the driver heard a click from the gun before the gunman ran off.

Note.
Dunlop would be an obvious and disturbing suggestion.

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