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10 MAY 1999

AN RÚNAÍOCHT ANGLA-ÉIREANNACH
BÉAL FEIRSTE

ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
BELFAST

TUESDAY, 11 MAY 1999

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TO: E. McKee / A. Ní Choigligh
Anglo-Irish Division

pls. cc GI/Section

FROM: P. Hickey, Belfast

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Copied directly to Mr. B. Callaghan, DOJELR

SUBJ: Murder of Brendan "Speedy" Fegan.

Our telephone conversation yesterday refers.

The murder occurred in the Hermitage Bar, Canal Street, Newry, shortly before 2.00 p.m. Media reports indicated that Fegan was targetted by two heavily disguised men wearing false moustaches and wigs and was shot at close range in the head and body. Fegan, who was 24 and a native of Newry, was dead on arrival at Daisy Hill Hospital. He is described as being a major figure in the drugs world in Northern Ireland and to have been ordered out of Newry over a decade ago.

Media reports yesterday variously indicated that the murder was "drugs related" or the result of a "dispute over drugs". The British side likewise indicated in initial contacts the RUC's view that the incident was "drugs related". Today's Sit Rep also indicates that "the RUC are investigating a drugs motive for his [Fegan's] murder".

You will have seen the Irish News story in today's paper which reports customers in the bar as saying that Fegan blamed the IRA for shooting him before dying. Local Sinn Fein Councillor, Brendan Curran, was widely quoted in the immediate aftermath of the shooting as discounting IRA involvement, stating that "all republican organisations were still on ceasefire" and that Fegan was "a prominent local republican". Curran, in interviews carried on radio this morning, continued to insist that that he did not believe that republicans were in any way involved and that it was a criminal drugs related killing. He also said, however, that Fegan's murder did "not come as a surprise" and denied suggesting that Fegan was a republican - "he was very anti-republican".

Also of interest by way of background is the attached report from yesterday's Sunday World in connection with the shooting of Johnny Adair in which it is alleged that the person who shot Adair was a "drugs dealer well known on the E tab scene in Ulster who has been an associate in the past of drugs godfathers like Brendan 'Speedy' Fegan and Liam 'Fat Boy' Mooney". The same drug dealer is also

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alleged in the report to have been responsible for a murder bid on Brendan Campbell using the same gun. Campbell was reported to be an associate of Fegan and the report carries a picture of the two together. He was also murdered in another attack last year.

As reported yesterday, Fegan was also the subject of an earlier attack on 17 February. The relevant Situation Report contained the following report on the incident:

> "A man in his early 20s was shot in the chest at premises in Bradbury Place, South Belfast. The victim is described as stable after surgery. The RUC are working on the theory that the incident was drugs related."

A curious story in the following edition of the Sunday World (20 February) also referred to Fegan, without reference to the shooting on 17 February but in connection with the alleged establishment of a "terrorist hit team" comprised of members of CIRA and the INLA to "hunt down and execute" a named criminal figure who was associated with him. A statement purporting to come from the group indicated that the reason for targetting the figure was "not because he is a drug dealer, associated with Speedy Fegan, but because of the continuous campaign of murder he is waging against the nationalist people...".

A copy of the relevant reports referred to above is attached.

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MAD DOG'S WOULD-BE ASSASSIN TRIED TO KILL DRUGS KING



Drugs baron Brendan Campbell, pictured right with Speedy Fegan, was also targeted by the Adair gunman



MURDER BID: Johnny Adair was targeted by the same gunman who tried to kill Brendan Campbell. Pic Courtesy Newsline.



OUT ON PAROLE: Johnny Adair pictured inside the Maze last year.

THE gun used to try to assassinate UFF godfather Johnny 'Mad Dog' Adair was previously used in a murder bid on drugs baron Brendan Campbell.

And it is believed that the same drugs boss who tried to shoot Campbell – later shot dead on the orders of the Provos on Belfast's Lisburn Road – attempted to murder Adair.

Adair, a self-confessed director of terrorism, was targeted at the UB40 rock concert in Belfast's Botanic Gardens last weekend.

He went to hospital immediately after he was attacked and he went back next morning claiming he had been shot in the head.

What is now not in dispute is that a fragment of metal was removed from behind his right ear and the right side of his head was bandaged.

Adair said he knew he had been shot because he saw a flash and heard the bang as a gun being fired.

There were rumours at the time that he was shot with an airgun – possibly a .22 pistol.

But the *Sunday World* has learnt that Adair was shot with a more powerful weapon – possibly a .45mm handgun.

Potential

We have been told the name of the potential gunman. He used the gun before to try to shoot Brendan Campbell.

On that occasion the drugs baron used damp ammunition which saved Campbell's life. He was eventually gunned down as he went to the plush Plank's restaurant on Belfast's Lisburn Road.

This time, the same drugs dealer tried to shoot Johnny Adair with the same weapon he used for his assassination bid on Campbell.

But again damp ammunition appears to have saved Adair's life.

Adair is supposed to be part of a big drugs racket run both from behind bars at the Maze and from outside.

He wears Ralph Lauren designer clothes when he is out on parole and was easy to spot for the drugs dealer who tried to shoot him, in spite of Adair saying he was wearing a hat pulled down over his ears.

The man who tried to shoot Adair is a drugs dealer who is well-known on the E4 scene in Ulster who has been an associate in the past of drugs godfathers Iain Brendan 'Speedy' Fegan and Liam 'Fat Boy' Mooney.

Connected

Adair himself has been linked to the drugs trade.

Reports published in the past have alleged he is accruing up to £1,500 a week in jail, and that he has already earmarked a big house near Donaghadee in County Down to 'retire' to when he is released.

He is due to be freed from his 14-year sentence in September, under the government's early release scheme for terrorists.

Johnny Adair, who went back to jail last Sunday after parole, claimed that republicans were behind the latest assassination bid on him but our source indicate that it was a top drugs dealer and 'murder' who tried to shoot Adair. He cannot be named for legal reasons.

It was Provos who helped whisk Johnny Adair away from Botanic Gardens after he was attacked.

One of them had a member of his family shot dead by loyalists but, in spite of this, he helped get Johnny Adair away.

Meantime, the drugs dealer who fired the shot at Adair is now on the run – fleeing for his life after his abortive assassination bid.

Loyalist renegades were being blamed for a gun attack in Ardoyne on Wednesday night in which two 11-year-olds narrowly escaped death.

But both death bids were foiled by damp ammunition



WIFE: Gina Adair

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AN RÚNAÍOCHT ANGLA-ÉIREANNACH
BÉAL FEIRSTE

ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
BELFAST

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DATE : 18 February 1999 **NO. OF PAGES (including this one):** 1

TO: Eamonn McKee/Alma Ní Choigligh
Anglo-Irish Division

FROM: G Keown

Copied directly to Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

SECURITY

SITUATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD: 0700 HOURS WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY TO 0700 HOURS THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 1999

SECURITY

South Belfast **1930 hrs**	A male in his early 20s was shot in the chest at premises in Bradbury Place. The victim is described as stable after surgery. The RUC are working on the theory that the incident was drugs related.
Newry **2100 hrs**	28 petrol bombs were found during a planned search of premises in the Doran's Hill area of the town. All were primed and ready for use.

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SUNDAY WORLD February 21, 1999

TERROR GANG SET UP TO KILL TOP GANGSTER

Code word statement to SUNDAY WORLD

A FOUR man terrorist hit team, from two Republican paramilitary groups, has been ordered to take out one of Ulster's most ruthless gangsters, it has been claimed.

EXCLUSIVE by HUGH JORDAN

The hood who is being targeted by the killer squad is believed to have been the trigger man when Belfast crime boss Frankie Turley was gunned down last year.

The makeshift terror unit, which consists of two members of the Continuity IRA and the INLA, were tasked with the murder operation at a secret meeting in north Belfast two days ago.

In a statement to the *Sunday World*, a spokesman using a codeword said: "At 12.00am today a special four man unit consisting of two members of the Continuity IRA and two members of the INLA were formed."

"The men were given orders to hunt down and execute _____ _____ (a named gangster). The decision was taken, not because he is a drug dealer, associated with Speedy Fegan, but because of the continuous campaign of murder he is waging against the nationalist people."

"This one man war is similar to that carried out by the LVF and our special unit will be on active service until the execution order has been carried out."

Suspect

The terror spokesman added that he will issue a further statement when the murder operation has been completed.

The gangster named in the joint terror statement, was the prime suspect, following the murder of Frankie Turley in Newtownabbey last year.

Turley was gunned down among bushes at the side of a railway embankment as he went with two criminal associates to recover weapons from a secret arms dump.

It is now accepted, in RUC circles that one of the men who was with Turley at the time shot him in the back as he lent forward to search the undergrowth.

And it is believed both Turley's accomplices had accepted a cash bounty from a well known drugs dealer to take him out.

Family man Frankie Turley was an extremely popular figure on the Belfast crime scene, and his death outraged rivals as well as friends.

The gangsters now at the centre of the death threat, were arrested and quizzed over Turley's murder, but denied any involvement.

During interrogation it is understood he told one officer: "I didn't kill Frankie, he was my friend."

Detectives on the case are said to be furious at the decision of the DPP to drop the case against the gangster, especially when the cops had a witness who was prepared to say he saw two men he recognised running away from the murder scene."

Following Frankie Turley's murder, the two men skipped across the border to Donegal until things calmed down.

And it is expected they may now go on the run again in an effort to dodge this latest terrorist threat.

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