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1/3

15 JUN 1999

AN RÚNAÍOCHT ANGLA-ÉIREANNACH
BÉAL FEIRSTE

ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT
BELFAST

(33)

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TO: Colm O'Floinn
Anglo-Irish Division

G/Cotter Mr McGarvey
Not passed on to the Taoiseach
15.6.99

FROM: Val O'Donnell
Secretariat, Belfast

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

Subj. Murder of Paul Anthony Downey , Newry

Further to Bill Nolan's report to- day about the above murder, and report in Sitrep.forwarded separately, further media coverage of the above refer to security sources as saying that a **possible drugs link** is being investigated. .They say that Downey,37, from Derryleckagh Rd., Newry, had connections with Brendan "Speedy " Fegan and that he was a known dealer in cannabis. There is some confusion as to whether Downey was abducted from within the Canal Court Hotel, Newry, or from the car park of the hotel.

Vincent McKenna (formerly FAIT) has been quoted as blaming the IRA for the murder, as well as alleging they were responsible for the earlier murders of Andrew Kearney , Eamonn Collins and Brendan Fegan- despite their claims to being on ceasefire. He accuses the SOSNI of double standards in relation to judging the states of the various paramilitary ceasefires. He says that she appears to be taking a hard line in the case of the LVF ceasefire, while ignoring the murders carried out (he alleges) by the IRA. (**Comment:** This issue could come into sharper focus if the SOSNI decides to re-specify the LVF for the purposes of the NI (Sentences) Act , as a result of the security review carried out last week. The SOSNI is due to make her judgement known "shortly".)McKenna alleges that SOISNI is adopting a particular position in relation to the IRA ceasefire in order to "keep them in the Talks".

We will report on any further developments.The police have appealed for witnesses to come forward.

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SF 2228 of 3 14/6/99

3/3

the youths away from the Orangemen who had congregated on Park Road.

- Fireworks and other missiles were thrown at police by loyalists at Garvaghy bridge.

- Nine police suffered minor injuries.

- There were no arrests.

3. From media reporting on Portadown on Saturday evening, my feeling is that above account is very much more benign than the situation warranted. TV pictures conveyed the impression of an ugly atmosphere throughout and not just afterwards during the stone throwing etc. There were large screens in place, presumably in the Corcrain/Obins St. area, to prevent line of sight contacts. Media reports say 11 police were injured, that there were four arrests and that some civilians were also injured. Portadown Orange lodge has demanded an apology by RUC Chief Constable for the behaviour of police, who they claim trampled on graves near the church during the disturbances. According to police sources, about 200 protesters stayed at Drumcree church after the rally. Fireworks and other missiles were thrown at police lines injuring 9 policemen and damaging vehicles. The disturbances lasted for up to two hours, according to reports, before the police moved to clear the protesters.

Other incidents.

- The body found in south Armagh on Sunday afternoon is said to be that of **Bill Downey**. He is apparently known to police on both sides of the border. He is described as an acquaintance of "Speedy" Fagan who was shot dead in Newry last month.

- Two teenage girls escaped injury when a petrol bomb was thrown at the back of a house in Drumard Drive, Lisburn around mid-night on Saturday. Damage was caused to a shed and a van parked nearby.

- A 33 year old man was shot in the legs at Robinson Ave., Glebeside Estate, in Ballymoney on Saturday night. Police are reported to have arrested a man and recovered two hand guns in a car on the Coleraine road shortly afterwards. Two more arrests were made later. The mayor of Ballymoney, Frank Campbell, condemning the attack referred to the unrest in the Glebeside estate due to the growing paramilitary faction in the area. There were apparent 'punishment' attacks also in Antrim and Belfast on Saturday night. A 25 year old man was beaten by masked men in the Rathglyn area of Antrim town. A 19year old man was shot in the legs off the Shore road in Belfast. Both areas can be described as loyalist.

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Extract from SITREP: 14 June 1999 3/3

Portadown

The main Orange parade involving 26 bands and 3,000 marchers passed off peacefully. However, stones and 3 petrol bombs were thrown at police by protesters on Garvaghy Road and later in the evening loyalist protesters at Drumcree Bridge threw stones and fireworks at the police.

Nine police officers received minor injuries during the disturbances.

Sunday 13 June

Newry
0137 hrs

Ten masked men entered the Canal Court Hotel and abducted one man. His body was discovered wrapped in a sheet at 1630 hrs on Carrowmannon Road near Belleeks, off the main Newry to Newtownhamilton Road.

First indications are that the cause of death was a single shot to the right side of the head, possibly with a shotgun. It is believed the incident may be related to drug dealing activities.

Monday 14 June

Nothing significant to report.

Signed

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