

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2022/76/55
Creator(s):	Department of Justice
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

RÚNAÍOCHT IDIR-RIALTASACH
NA BREATAINE-NA hÉIREANN
BÉAL FEIRSTE

BRITISH-IRISH
INTERGOVERNMENTAL SECRETARIAT
BELFAST

cdl 17.10.00

COPY TO;
MR. O'LEARY
MR. FLAHIVE
MR. CALLAGHAN
MR. O'HARA

Secure Fax No: 1106 .

DATE : 17 October 2000 **NO. OF PAGES (including this one): 4 .**

TO : Gary Ansbro/ Fergal Mythen/Fiona Flood
Anglo Irish Division

FROM: Val O'Donnell

Copied directly to B Callaghan, DoJELR

SUBJECT : Joseph O'Connor murder

Former republican prisoners Anthony McIntyre and Tommy Gorman have spoken out to-day about the O'Connor murder. In a radio interview (transcript attached) they have accused the PIRA of being responsible for the murder of Joseph O'Connor and have called for a public inquiry into the murder.

They have suggested that a "climate of moral anathema " was created following the screening of the Panorama programme on the Omagh bombing atrocity, and political reaction to it, which has facilitated attacks on dissident republicans, and on any others who are opposed to the approach of the present Sinn Fein leadership to the GFA.

©JUS/2022/76/55

Media Monitoring Unit

ANTHONY McINTYRE – TALKBACK – 17 OCTOBER 2000

ANTHONY McINTYRE

I talked to Anthony McIntyre this morning and asked him if his allegations were true, which Sinn Fein say are spurious, well what was the purpose of all of this?

ANTHONY McINTYRE

Well, I think what has happened is that the republican leadership are determined to ensure that no alternative emerges to what they are pursuing for the moment. And after Panorama, and I have to say this, it's in conjunction with the statements by the Taoiseach, Mr Ahern, a sort of a climate of moral anathema was created whereby it was very easy for the Provisional IRA to send a shot across the bows of all those republicans who oppose the Good Friday Agreement, who oppose what the present republican leadership with Sinn Fein are doing, including republicans who are exclusively peaceful, such as ourselves. It was shot right across the bows. We were told, do not dissent, and see if the public inquiry does not go ahead, and if the media and if all the agencies, the powerful agencies in this society, are prepared to ignore it and turn it back, in the interests of the peace process, what is going to happen next is that we will have a situation similar to what has happened in Argentina and what's happened in Chile, a Pinochet type disappearances and who is going to ask?

INTERVIEWER

I mean there is an incongruity in this, but maybe that has been sold throughout Ireland's history, that people in the DUP, for example, and those within the harder wings of the Ulster Unionist Party and other unionists, would say, yes, Mr McIntyre we're with you. You're absolutely right. We agree with you.

ANTHONY McINTYRE

Yes they would, and the problem is, if the RUC murdered Joseph O'Connor, those people would be saying nothing. We would be kicking up. We would be raising our voices to the rooftops. We would be trying to lift the rooftops. The people who are making those statements from the DUP benches and elsewhere are primarily concerned with evicting Sinn Fein from the Assembly. We have no such objective. Our concern is that the family of Mr O'Connor, regardless of who killed him, we want this inquiry and we are determined that we

©JUS/2022/76/55

will not be silenced by the fact that our views on this matter find an echo within the spurious concerns of the DUP. Nor will we be intimidated by the IRA or Sinn Fein on this matter.

INTERVIEWER

You also make a statement here, if I can find it, something about killing off a semblance of alternative republicanism. I think you use that phrase in it. What do you mean by that? I mean there are many different ways, of course, of achieving republicanism, achieving an Irish Republic.

ANTHONY McINTYRE

Well, that's true. The Sinn Fein leadership, the IRA leadership, at the moment know that what they are doing is not going to achieve an Irish Republic. Now, in my view, an Irish Republic may well not be achieved. But in trying to silence those people who, in one manner or another, defy the dominant logic, the dominant republican logic, it is the ultimate act of censorship when you decide you will murder them.

INTERVIEWER

Yes, you see the point I'm trying to get at is that, it is perfectly legitimate for Sinn Fein to see and to look ahead and say, well the way we achieve what we want is through the Anglo-Irish Agreement. It's quite legitimate for you and others to say, no that won't happen, there will never be an Irish Republic out of that. I mean those are legitimate positions for republicanism to take.

ANTHONY McINTYRE

I agree with you. The problem here is that the Provisional Republican leadership are so intent on monopolising the republican constituency, that they cannot possibly brook any other alternative. They simply do not want a plurality of voices, they do not want a plurality of ideas. And, in our case, we find that we're now faced with the potential of being killed by the IRA, by the Provisional IRA, and there are people like myself do not have the courage to stand up and speak out (sic). We are in a position such as that referred to during the Nazi era by (unclear) when they came from the Jews I didn't speak out, they came for the gypsies, I didn't speak out. They came for the communists and I didn't speak out. When they came for me there was nobody left to speak out.

©JUS/2022/76/55

INTERVIEWER

Last question to you, and it's a more general one. It's about perception, it's about interpretation. There's a phrase somewhere, again in your article, about honouring a dishonourable outcome to an honourable struggle. I take it that's referring to the last 30 years or so. Well a lot of the victims, you know, would not see that as an honourable struggle, and surely the history of Ireland has been tampered with what we're talking about. You know de Valera, what he did to the dissidents of the time, and what did we fight for? The same thing was being asked by the pro-treaty and anti-treaty forces. There's an inevitability about this where there is a conflict.

ANTHONY McINTYRE

I would like to say that, time after time, and I'm interested in the comparisons that you have drawn, people who get into power do exactly what the Provisional leadership are doing today. (Unclear) spoke of it. We've seen it throughout history, and I would like to say that, now Bobby Sands and his comrades, my comrades, died on hunger strike to profess their republicanism. Now I don't know what way Bobby Sands would feel today about what is happening. I don't know what he would feel about the Good Friday Agreement. He might even support it. But, if he had the courage to die for his republicanism, I must have the courage to speak in defence of my own.

©JUS/2022/76/55