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RÚNAÍOCHT IDIR-RIALTASACH
NA BREATAINE-NA hÉIREANN
BÉAL FEIRSTE

BRITISH-IRISH
INTERGOVERNMENTAL SECRETARIAT
BELFAST cdd 5.9.00

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

Secure Fax No: 928

DATE : 5 September 2000 **NO. OF PAGES (including this one):** 1

TO : Fergal Mythen/Susan Conlon
Anglo Irish Division

FROM: Val O'Donnell

Copied directly to B Callaghan, DoJELR

SUBJECT : Report on Bugging of hotel room used by Decommissioning Body

Further to previous report Sfax 920 on above matter , I had an opportunity to discuss the development with Aaro Suonio and Patrick Walls, staffers to two of the Commissioners in the IICD , at a reception at the Waterfront yesterday evening. Their overall approach is that they are not encouraging media or other contacts to give any further life to the story. They told me that, on checking records, they believe that only two nights were spent in the room in question during the past 12 months - by Commissioner Andrew Sens, on one occasion and Patrick Walls on the other. They said that Gen. De Chastelain had not occupied the room in question at any point.

They are inclined to go along with a statement from the Europa hotel that the "bug " must have been placed in more recent times, and would have not remained undetected for long. They also think that the device may have been aimed at persons other than themselves , given the existence of industrial espionage and the high profile clientele generally at the hotel.

The press line they have been using is that they do not wish to make an issue out of the incident and that, if they were the target of the bug, or if there are security implications for them arising from the incident , they expect the police to make contact with them in the first instance.

In the circumstances there would not appear to be any point in our pursuing the incident further, but we shall monitor any developments and report back.

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SITUATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD: 0700 HOURS FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER TO 0700 HOURS MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2000

SECURITY

Friday 1 September

Belfast City Centre 1000 hours	A small transmitter-type device was found by cleaning staff in a room at the Europa Hotel, Gt Victoria Street which had been occupied at times over the past 12 months by personnel from the Independent Commissioner on Decommissioning and from the office of the Sentence Review Commissioners. The device was recovered by the police for forensic examinations.
West Belfast pm	A man was arrested after a handgun was found in a car stopped by the security forces in the Falls Road area. A shot was reportedly fired during the incident. No injuries.
West Belfast 2000 - 2130 hours	Minor confrontation between UVF and UDA/UFF supporters in the Shankill Road area.
Bangor 2300 hours	Report of two masked men setting alight flammable liquid poured around the doorway of a house at Cloverhill Gardens in the Ballyree area. Extensive smoke and fire damage caused to door and hallway area of property. Premises unoccupied at the time.

Saturday 2 September

North Belfast 0120 hours	A shotgun was discharged at a house at Cambrai Street off the Crumlin Road. Several windows broken. No injuries. Occupant has no known paramilitary connections.
North Belfast 0345 hours	A crude incendiary-type device detonated in the garden of a house at Silverstream Gardens. The occupant is reported to be a member of the PUP. No injuries. Minor damage to a window and fence.
West Belfast 1330 - 1700 hours	A UVF commemoration parade in the Shankill Road area passed off without incident; reported that 1600 marchers and 35 bands took part in the event.
Carrickfergus 2230 - 2300 hours	A number of cars containing UVF supporters were confronted by local UDA/UFF supporters at Castlemara. A fight developed but those involved dispersed as police arrived.

Sunday 3 September

Belfast 0001 hours	Several men assaulted a man with baseball bats at his home at Renfrew Walk in Sandy Row area. Victim claimed assault was part of the UVF/UDA feud.
Portrush 0300 hours	Two masked men, one carrying a handgun, held up staff at Central Bar in town. £3,000 stolen and a quantity of alcohol.
Carrickfergus	Occupant of a house escaped when a masked gunman arrived at his home in Thorndale Square. Gunman discharged two shots from a shotgun through

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See file International Commission Staffing (35/81/285) Part 3, pencil "Belfast Accommodation"

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COPY TO:
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MR. O'HARA

Secure Fax No: 920

DATE : **3 September, 2000.** **NO. OF PAGES** (including this one): **1+1**

TO: **F. Mythen.**

FROM: **Paul Hickey.**

Copied directly to B. Callaghan, DOJELR.

SUBJECT: Sunday Times Report on Bugging of Hotel Room used by Decommissioning Body

The attached report in the Sunday Times refers.

I raised the report with the British side who confirmed the substance of the contents in that they have indicated that they understand that a transmitter was discovered by a member of the Europa Hotel cleaning staff in a room used in the past by De Chastelain. I was also given to understand that the British Government will, however, be denying knowledge of the device. The matter is being investigated by the RUC.

You will see from the report that it is claimed that the device was located in a room "used by members of the decommissioning body" but not by de Chastelain and that de Chastelain himself has not stayed in the hotel for more than a year. DOJELR (Brendan Callaghan) will be able to confirm the precise arrangements but my understanding was that De Chastelain was the last remaining member of the Commission to be based in the Europa for some period and that the question of his vacating the hotel for permanent rented accommodation was being considered in late 1998 early 1999. It may, however, be that the Dublin based members of the Commission may have continued to stay at the Europa on occasion.

Gen de Chastelain left Europa on 3.2.99

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