

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2022/76/69
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.

cdd 4/12/00 G1 Dept

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

Meeting with members of the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP)

Davy Mahood and Eddie McLean of the Ulster Democratic Party met with Helen Blake, Peader Carpenter and the undersigned during a visit to Dublin. Both are former prisoners and have been active in the UDA, as well as being members of the UDP. The following emerged in our conversation.

Mahood said that the Loyalist feud is now over and there should be an announcement to that effect within the next week. Both the UVF and the UDA in North Belfast have appointed a senior figure from within each organisation to liaise with the other. There are plans to make similar appointments on the Shankill Road.

He said that the two feuds, North Belfast and the Shankill, were not directly linked and revolved around personality clashes. In both cases, young hotheads had caused the escalation in the situation. Both groups have now put their arms into the care of experienced older members.

Mahood placed a lot of blame on the shoulders of Billy Hutchinson whom he described as out of control and not amendable to dialogue. Mahood said the killing of Rice, the 63 year old PUP office worker was carried out to avenge the murder of two UDA volunteers from Tiger's Bay. Mahood claimed that Rice had, in fact, had ordered the younger men's death.

©JUS/2022/76/69

On the political side, Mahood said that in the longer term there is likely to be a re-alignment of Unionism with the anti-Agreement element in the UUP joining up with the DUP. He felt that the DUP was gaining ground as Protestants turned away from the Agreement.

The UDP has never really recovered from its failure to win a seat in the Assembly elections. The organisation is increasingly a body of ex-prisoners catering for their welfare and that of their families. Mahood stressed the need for both Governments to keep in touch with Gary McMichael and Davy Adams. It was important that the paramilitaries believed that their point of view and that of the political representatives was being taken into account.

Mahood expressed concern with the build up of the Real IRA in Nationalist areas. This was being viewed as a potential threat to Loyalists. He mentioned in passing that the Provos "were right to kill Joe O'Connor" who was terrorising the Ballymurphy area and a loose cannon.

Ray Bassett
Anglo-Irish Division
30 November 2000

©JUS/2022/76/69