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17 AUG 2000

RÚNAÍOCHT IDIR-RIALTASACH NA BREATAINE-NA hÉIREANN BÉAL FEIRSTE

BRITISH-IRISH INTERGOVERNMENTAL SECRETARIAT BELFAST

c see S Caellagh W Bassett GI / Secty + PA.

Secure Fax No: 872

DATE : 15 August, 2000. **NO. OF PAGES** (including this one): 1+1

TO: F. Mythen.

FROM: Paul Hickey.

Copied directly to B. Callaghan, DOJELR.

SUBJECT: Pipe Bomb Incident involving Johnny Adair at Beechpark Street, Belfast (2)

Further to my SFs 868 and 869, I raised this incident with the British side with particular reference to the alleged telephone claim on behalf of responsibility on behalf of the North Belfast Brigade of PIRA.

The British side have now reverted to the effect that the police "are keeping an open mind on who is responsible for the attack on Johnny Adair".

You will have already seen that this evening's Belfast Telegraph is reporting that "security sources" are "extremely sceptical" about the circumstances of the incident and the attribution of the attack to PIRA by Adair. A copy of the article is attached for ease of reference. That reporting is in keeping with more informal indications I have received from other sources. The involvement of republicans in the incident has also been vigorously denied by SF MLA Gerry Kelly.

Adair has repeated the claim that "mainstream republicans" were involved in an interview carried on the UTV 6.00 News. That news bulletin, however, also reported that "security sources" had indicated to it that the pipe bomb was of a type normally used by loyalists and were questioning how republicans would have known that Adair was in the area.

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