

FONIO 5/15

OO NIO BELFAST

GRS 320

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 151800Z

FROM DUBLIN 151655Z JAN 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 25 OF 15 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO BELFAST



PRIVATE OFFICE

FUE

MR FOURN

MR MERIFIELD

MR GILLILAND

MR BLODFIELD

MR BUXTON

MR COULSON

MR REEVE

LIAISON X 2

RUC

2. sect 1 15 JAN 1985
RECEIVED.....

DEATH AT BELFAST ROAD BLOCK

1. THE IRISH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUMMONED ME WITH CUSTOMARY URGENCY TO SEE HIM AT SHORT NOTICE THIS MORNING. HE LEFT A CABINET MEETING TO SEE ME IN THE TAOISEACH'S WAITING ROOM. HE READ OUT CAREFULLY THE TEXT GIVEN IN MIFT. (I SUBSEQUENTLY SECURED A COPY OF THIS TEXT FROM LILLIS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN HANDED OVER TO ME.) MR BARRY SAID THAT HE ALSO WISHED TO MAKE TWO POINTS TO ME "OFF THE RECORD". FIRSTLY, THEY UNDERSTOOD FROM EXCELLENT SOURCES IN THE BRITISH ARMY THAT THE ARMY REGARDED THE UDR AS UNDISCIPLINED AND UNRELIABLE. SECONDLY HE WANTED TO STRESS THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT THOUGHT THAT THE UDR WAS A SOURCE OF DANGER AND NOT OF SECURITY, THAT IT WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGING TO INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS AND THAT IT SHOULD BE DISBANDED. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS VERY CONCERNED AT THIS ATTACK ON A STATIONARY CAR FULL OF JOY RIDERS. YOUNG MEN STOLE CARS EVERY NIGHT IN DUBLIN BUT NO-ONE THOUGHT OF KILLING THEM FOR DOING SO.

2. I SAID THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE INCIDENT APART FROM WHAT HAD APPEARED IN THE IRISH MEDIA. WE COULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE DETAILS GIVEN THERE WERE ACCURATE. I WAS NOT GOING TO ACCEPT WITHOUT FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE UDR HAD OPENED FIRE ON A STATIONARY CAR. THE JOY RIDERS WHO WENT UNPUNISHED IN DUBLIN DID NOT ATTEMPT TO BREAK THROUGH ROAD BLOCKS. AS FOR WHAT HE HAD SAID ABOUT BRITISH ARMY VIEWS, I OBSERVED THAT HE SHOULD NOT LISTEN TO GOSSIP. I DID NOT THINK THAT GOSSIP COULD EVER BE A SATISFACTORY FOUNDATION FOR POLICY. AT THE SAME TIME I CONFIRMED THAT HMG WERE FULLY AWARE OF THE CONCERN OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE UDR.

3. I SAID THAT IN RECENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGES WE HAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR TO THE IRISH SIDE THAT OUR SECURITY POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND WAS A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO US. WE DID NOT PRETEND THAT THE SITUATION WAS EASY. WE THOUGHT THAT ULSTERISATION WAS THE RIGHT POLICY. WE DID NOT THINK THAT A GREATER BRITISH ARMY PRESENCE WOULD HELP IN RESOLVING INTERCOMMUNAL TENSIONS. BUT WE WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE SITUATION AS IT WAS AND THAT WAS WHY WE WERE DISCUSSING IT WITH THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. HE READILY ACCEPTED THIS EFFORT TO PLACE THE INCIDENT IN A WIDER CONTEXT AND AGREED THAT THESE WERE PROBLEMS WHICH THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE TOGETHER.

4. LILLIS, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, SAID THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE ROAD BLOCK. HE SAID THAT IN THE SEVENTIES THIS HAD BEEN A PLACE WHERE PROTESTANT TERRORISTS HAD FREQUENTLY AMBUSHED CATHOLICS LEAVING THE MOTORWAY TO ENTER THE FALLS ROAD AREA. THE INCIDENT SEEMED LIKE A REVIVAL OF SECTARIAN ASSASSINATION BY PERSONS IN UNIFORM. THE IRISH GOVERNMENT WAS SURPRISED AND UPSET THAT THE UDR SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN THIS PLACE. I OFFERED NO COMMENT.

5. SEE MY 2 IFT'S.

GOODISON

FOBEL 003/15

O NIO(B)

GRS320

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 151645Z

FM DUBLIN 151610Z JAN 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 026 OF 15 JANUARY 1985

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO(B)



PRIVATE OFFICE

FMS

MR FOURN

MR MERIFIELD

MR GILLILAND

MR BLOOMFIELD

MR BUXTON

MR COULSON

MR REEVE

LIAISON X 2

RUC

2. self
RECEIVED 15 JAN 1985

MIPT: DEATH AT BELFAST ROAD BLOCK

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT FROM WHICH MR BARRY SPOKE TO ME.
2. BEGINS. I WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU THE OUTRAGE OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AT THE KILLING OF A LOCAL YOUTH AND THE INJURING OF OTHERS BY MEMBERS OF THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT THIS MORNING IN WEST BELFAST.
3. THE ARMS OF THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY AND THE PERSONNEL SUSPENDED PENDING THE FULLEST INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT.
4. THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE UDR IN AND AROUND WEST BELFAST, THE AREA OF MOST INTENSE ALIENATION OF NATIONALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO ME. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES COULD BY NOW HAVE FAILED TO LEARN THAT SUCH A PRACTICE COULD RESULT ONLY IN FURTHER ALIENATION, CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE.
5. I WISH TO CONVEY IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE CONVICTION OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE UDR SHOULD CEASE FORTHWITH TO BE DEPLOYED IN NATIONALIST AREAS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. I URGE THIS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND, FOR THE SAKE OF SECURITY AND COMMUNAL HARMONY AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UDR ITSELF. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THE FORCE, IN ITS PRESENT FORM, SHOULD NOT BE DEPLOYED AT ALL.
6. I BELIEVE THAT THE UDR IS SEEN BY MANY LOYALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS AN ARMED MILITIA OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITY WHOSE PURPOSE IT IS TO DEFEND THEIR COMMUNITY AGAINST ATTACK FROM NATIONALIST EXTREMISTS. I KNOW THAT NATIONALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND BELIEVE THE UDR TO BE AN ARMED INSTRUMENT OF DOMINATION OF THEIR COMMUNITY BY THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY. NATIONALISTS SEE THE FORCE AS BEING NO MORE THAN THE NOTORIOUS SPECIAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY UNDER ANOTHER GUISE: AN ILL-DISCIPLINED, SECTARIAN FORCE, MANY OF WHOSE MEMBERS ARE MOTIVATED BY A VENGEFUL HOSTILITY AGAINST NATIONALISTS. AS SUCH THE UDR IS A DANGEROUS SOURCE OF DIVISION IN NORTHERN IRELAND TODAY.
7. I HAVE CONDEMNED AND I CONDEMN TODAY WITH THE SAME REPUDIATION AND HORROR AS I DO THIS MORNING'S OUTRAGE, THE MURDER OF MEMBERS OF THE UDR. I AM DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT THE EXISTENCE AND THE MANNER OF DEPLOYMENT OF THE UDR OVER THE YEARS HAS IN THE EYES OF SOME MISGUIDED PEOPLE CREATED PRETEXTS WHICH THEY WOULD NEVER OTHERWISE HAVE HAD FOR THE IRA TO KILL LOYALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE MEMBERS OF THE UDR. ENDS.

GOODISON

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KCRZH

FOBEL 004/15

OO NIO (B)

GRS 240

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 151730Z

FM DUBLIN 151630Z JAN 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 27 OF 15 JANUARY 1985

INFO IMMEDIATE NIO (BELFAST)



PRIVATE OFFICE -

PUS

MR BOURN

MR MERIFIELD

MR GILLILAND

MR BLOOMFIELD

MR BUXTON

MR COULSON

MR REEVE

LIAISON X 2

RUC

2 sets 15 JAN 1985 RECEIVED.....

MY 2 IPT'S: DEATH AT BELFAST ROAD BLOCK

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE IRISH MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT 1230Z TODAY.

THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONVEYED TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TODAY THE GRAVE CONCERN OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AT THE KILLING OF A LOCAL YOUTH AND THE INJURY TO OTHERS BY MEMBERS OF THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT THIS MORNING IN WEST BELFAST.

THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE ARMS OF THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY AND THE PERSONNEL SUSPENDED PENDING THE FULLEST INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT.

HE STATED THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE UDR IN AND AROUND WEST BELFAST, THE AREA OF MOST INTENSE ALIENATION OF NATIONALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, WAS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO HIM. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES COULD BY NOW HAVE FAILED TO LEARN THAT SUCH PRACTICE COULD RESULT ONLY IN FURTHER ALIENATION, CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE.

HE CONVEYED IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE CONVICTION OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE UDR SHOULD NOT BE DEPLOYED IN NATIONALIST AREAS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HE URGED THIS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND, FOR THE SAKE OF SECURITY AND COMMUNAL HARMONY AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UDR ITSELF.

THE MINISTER SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE UDR WAS SEEN BY MANY LOYALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AS AN ARMED MILITIA OF THEIR OWN COMMUNITY WHOSE PURPOSE IT WAS TO DEFEND THEIR COMMUNITY AGAINST ATTACK FROM NATIONALIST EXTREMISTS. THE NATIONALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND BELIEVED THE UDR TO BE AN ARMED INSTRUMENT OF DOMINATION OF THEIR COMMUNITY BY THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY. AS SUCH THE UDR WAS A DANGEROUS SOURCE OF DIVISION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

THE MINISTER SAID HE HAD CONDEMNED AND HE CONDEMNED AGAIN, WITH THE SAME REPUDIATION AND HORROR, AS HE DID THIS MORNING'S KILLING, THE MURDER OF MEMBERS OF THE UDR.

GOODISON

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