

**E.R.**

PC/85/1/574/ES

Mr McConnell

cc: Mr Buxton  
Mr Merifield  
Mr Reeve ✓



SHOOTING IN WEST BELFAST - 15 JANUARY 1985

Thank you for your minute of 15 January about Ms Mahon's telephone call regarding this incident.

2. It would seem, from the reports we have received, that a military patrol of 7/10 UDR pursued a stolen Ford Grenada with 4 young men in it along Stockman's Lane towards the motorway. They managed to intercept the car at the motorway roundabout, at which time the car attempted to reverse and hit three other cars. Three UDR soldiers were slightly injured. Although given two warnings to stop by the UDR soldiers, the driver of the vehicle attempted to crash his way through the VCP. At this stage it would appear that the UDR soldiers opened fire and fired some 25 rounds.

3. As you know one youth - Paul Gerald KELLY - was killed, and four other youths - HEGARTY, DOYLE, McKENNA and ROONEY - were all injured.

4. The incident is now being fully investigated by the RUC and papers will be put to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who will then have to decide whether or not the degree of force used by the soldiers was reasonable in the circumstances.

5. To answer Ms Mahon's questions:

- (a) The police do not require the UDR, as a matter of routine, to provide support in West Belfast. On occasions it may be that a UDR patrol will have to enter West Belfast while engaged in hot pursuit. On this occasion this did not occur.
- (b) The degree of force used by the soldiers will be the subject of scrutiny by the Director of Public

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Prosecutions and, if he decides to mount a prosecution, the Courts. Without knowing <sup>all</sup> the facts we are not in a position to comment, and would not wish to do so in order to avoid prejudicing the judicial process.

6. While this line may not satisfy those who want instant justice, I am afraid that in the circumstances it is the only line we can give. I hope that this is helpful.



P COULSON  
Law and Order Division

15 January 1985