

STALKERPoints to Make /If necessary/

1. The enquiry was commissioned by the Chief Constable on the request of DPP. The bulk of the enquiry has been completed.
2. Given Mr Stalker's absence on leave, while the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire carries out an enquiry which at this stage relates solely to the Greater Manchester Police, it is for the Chief Constable of the RUC to consider how to take things forward, and how the outstanding items should be dealt with.
3. NIO has no responsibility for, or locus in, this area. But clearly it is in everyone's interest that the entire enquiry should be resolved as soon as possible.

Background

1. Two INLA terrorists (GREW and CARROLL) were shot dead by the RUC in County Armagh on 12 December 1982. At first the RUC claimed that the men had crashed through a vehicle checkpoint in their car but at the trial (for the murder of GREW) of Constable ROBINSON it emerged that this was a cover story fabricated to conceal the fact that the two men had been under close surveillance for some time and that, as part of an attempt to regain contact with them, RUC men had crossed into the Republic of Ireland. Constable ROBINSON was acquitted on the grounds that, whatever the background, he and his colleagues had sufficient reason to believe that the terrorists were armed (they were not) and accompanied by Dominic McGlinchey who had made several murderous attacks in the recent past. This acquittal (during which the Judge praised ROBINSON's marksmanship) and the subsequent comments of LJ Gibson in acquitting other RUC constables on charges arising from a similar incident were criticised by the Irish and the minority community as demonstrating the partiality of the judges and giving the RUC a licence to murder terrorists.
2. At the DPP's request in May 1984 the Chief Constable commissioned a full enquiry headed by the Deputy Chief Constable of Great Manchester, Mr STALKER, into the background to the incident and the RUC cover story which was arguably an attempt to pervert the course of justice. The

Chief Constable received the report in mid-September 1985 and forwarded it to the DPP (NI) in February this year. Some matters remain outstanding.

The Latest Developments

1. It is now known that Mr STALKER has been sent on leave, while investigations are carried out by the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire. The Vice Chairman of the GB Police Complaints Authority has made it clear that the enquiry which Mr Sampson is currently conducting is a matter which rests with the Chief Constable of Manchester and his Police Authority, and at this stage relates solely to the Greater Manchester Police.

2. We understand that the bulk of the STALKER enquiry in Northern Ireland has been completed, with only limited matters still to be tied up. In these circumstances, it is for the Chief Constable of the RUC to consider how best to take things forward. The NIO has no role in this; but clearly it is in everyone's interest that the entire enquiry should be resolved as soon as possible.