

4910-6 OCT 87

E. R.

CONFIDENTIAL

cc Mr Pitt Elliott
Mr Hamilton

BSS

Mr Spence
S/T

cc Mr Innes
Mr Elliott
Mr Daniell

510/73

SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD AND THE CROSS-BORDER DIMENSION

1. You will recall that on receipt of a copy of your minute of 19 August enclosing a most helpful DHSS note on the history and present level of cross-border cooperation on social security fraud, I wrote on 20 August to ACC Wilf Monahan (copying the letter to ACC Trevor Forbes and to Gavin Hewitt) asking them if they could provide any specific evidence or intelligence of the extent of paramilitary involvement in these frauds. I also asked if they could provide a steer for Mr Needham as to where, in particular, enquiries might be directed. I was hoping that we could give the Minister something more substantial than general assertions for his proposed meeting with his ROI counterpart this autumn.

2. I now attach Mr Monahan's reply (I assume, but can't be sure, that he has consulted Trevor Forbes). You will see that it is disappointing - full of generalities and totally lacking in specifics. I am afraid it will not be much help to the Minister at his meeting with his Irish counterpart. I suppose the areas which the Minister may wish to explore are those pointed to in the last sentence of Mr Monahan's third paragraph, ie increased surveillance on known suspects, overcoming the difficulties about access to individual's records and arranging for closer RUC/Garda Siochana liaison.

3. I am sorry that this is the best steer we can provide so far. If I hear more from Trevor Forbes or Jim Daniell, I will let you know.

B A BLACKWELL
Law and Order Division
1 October 1987

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10 September 1987

Sean Swan

*For
29/9*

PARAMILITARY FINANCE - SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD AND THE CROSS BORDER DIMENSION

Please refer to your communication dated 20 August 1987 concerning the above matter.

It would appear that there is no firm evidence, other than intelligence to suggest that paramilitaries are benefiting from Social Security Frauds. It is accepted however that such frauds are occurring and it would be totally wrong to presume that paramilitaries on both sides are not taking the benefit to elicit money from it towards financing their respective campaigns in some way.

These types of fraud are both North and South of the border and mostly for personal gain, by persons doing 'the double' and claiming from both countries as commented upon at paragraph 2 of the DHSS notes. Whilst again this would be common knowledge of what is in fact happening, we lack the necessary evidence to pursue it through the courts and produce the necessary witnesses to prove same. There is difficulty in establishing a starting point on which we could build to obtain successful and conclusive investigations. This should initially be commenced by the Security Departments both North and South. It is suggested that surveillance by the Departments, on known suspects, be increased, access to individuals records made available (despite the legal difficulty as highlighted) and closer liaison between the RUC/Garda Siochana on this problem.

One would accept there is no easy solution other than a determined effort by all concerned and utilising the procedures outlined to their maximum benefit.

All Department of Health and Social Security Frauds which come to the attention of police are closely examined to see if there is any evidence showing a larger scale fraud on the dimensions as outlined. We will continue to monitor this but basically feel that the input to combat this type of financial abuse must firstly start with the Departments mostly affected and followed through thereafter by the police when the necessary information to do so is made available.

Law & Order Division
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Contd/



I trust that this information is of assistance.

W G Monahan

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