

No Marson

Reference

J.A.

✓ cc Mr Steele
Mr Hewitt, LOB

Mr Bell
SIL

SOVIET ENQUIRY ABOUT PRISONERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Tim George's letter of 22 February to you enclosed a list which Mr Shevardnaze passed to the Foreign Secretary naming 8 men currently in prison in Northern Ireland.
2. Details of the 8 are attached and as you will see all of the prisoners are serving life sentences for murder with the exception of one who is in for attempted murder. We have included brief details of the murders and have listed the prisoners' other offences which the FCO is welcome to pass on to the Soviets.
3. We would be grateful for sight of Moscow telegram No 304 and any others you receive which concern prisons in Northern Ireland.

Signed by

CLAIRE MARSON
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Northern Ireland Office
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BELFAST

25 February 1988

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1. **Paul Martin Creighton** Pris No 2666/76, DOB 18 June 1955, HM Prison, Maze - Presently serving Life Imprisonment for Murder.

On 3 November 1975 Creighton acted as a look-out whilst others shot and killed J Fogarty at his home during an IRA feud.

2. **Michael Culbert** Pris No 1059/78, DOB 17 July 1949, HM Prison, Maze - Presently serving Life Imprisonment for Murder.

Culbert passed on information which resulted in 2 gunmen murdering police photographer C M McAllister at his home on 24 April 1978.

Also serving lesser sentences for belonging to a proscribed organisation and collecting and communicating prohibited information.

3. **Joseph Gibson** Pris No 1655/76, DOB 13 October 1956, HM Prison, Maze - Presently serving Life Imprisonment for Murder.

On 19 June 1976 Gibson shot R W Nicholl (member of UDA and former member UDR) at his home.

4. **John Anthony McCooey** Pris No 3076/76, DOB 31 July 1955, HM Prison, Maze - Presently serving Life Imprisonment for Murder (7 counts).

On 1 September 1976 McCooey with accomplices murdered 5 Orangemen at Tullyvallon Orange Hall; collected information which resulted in the murder of J McCullough (UDR) near his home; drove 2 men to scene where R W McConnell (UDR) was murdered.

McCooey is also serving the following sentences:-

- 14 years - Possession of firearms and ammunition with intent.
- 10 years - Possession of explosive substances with intent.
- 14 years - Possession of explosive substances with intent.
- 5 years - Belonging to a Proscribed organisation.
- 5 years - Possession of firearms in suspicious circumstances.
- 14 years - Carrying a firearm with intent.

5. **Thomas James McGrath** Pris No 1529/77, DOB 25 July 1956, HM Prison, Maze - Presently serving Life Imprisonment for Murder (2 counts).

On 13 October 1976 shot W Corrigan (UDR) and his son.

On 2 June 1977 took part in the murder of Constables D Davison, K Lynch and H Martin at Stewartstown.

6. Peter Christopher Whelan Pris No 199/77, DOB 9 December 1957, HM Prison, Maze - Presently serving Life Imprisonment for Attempted Murder.

On 26 November 1976 attempted to murder a reserve policeman at Strand Road, Londonderry.

Also serving the following sentences:-

- 2 years for wounding with intent (2 cases).
- 15 years - Possession of firearms and ammunition with intent.
- 8 years - Possession of ammunition in suspicious circumstances.
- 5 years - Belonging to a proscribed organisation.

7. Kevin Gerard Christopher McNally Pris No 2171/78, DOB 17 June 1958 HM Prison, Maze - Presently serving Life Imprisonment for Murder (2 counts).

On 18 October 1977 murdered former Reserve Constable Anderson at Girvan Bridge, Armagh.

On 19 August 1978 with others murdered former UDR member T Johnston at Keady.

McNally is also serving the following sentences:-

- 5 years - Arson.
- 4 years - Arson.
- 10 years - Robbery.
- 4 years - Possession of firearms and ammunition.
- 5 years - Membership of a proscribed organisation.
- 8 years - Membership of a proscribed organisation.
- 3 years - Conspiracy to commit burglary.
- 20 years - Attempted murder.
- 16 years - Possession of firearms and ammunition with intent.
- 5 years - Hijacking.
- 5 years - Collecting prohibited information.
- 5 years - Possession of firearms and ammunition.
- 5 years - Possession of firearms and ammunition.
- 5 years - Possession of firearms and ammunition.
- 5 years - Communicating prohibited information.

8. Edward Joseph Patrick O'Connor Pris No 2221/78, DOB 10 January 1959, HM Prison, Maze - Presently serving Life Imprisonment for Murder (2 counts details of which are as for McNally above).

O'Connor is also serving the following sentence:-

- 16 years - Attempted murder.
- 12 years - Possession of firearms and ammunition with intent.
- 5 years - Receiving prohibited training.
- 3 years - Conspiracy to rob.
- 5 years - Collecting prohibited information.
- 5 years - Belonging to proscribed organisation.
- 7 years - Belonging to proscribed organisation.
- 8 years - Collecting prohibited information.
- 5 years - Collecting prohibited information.