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## Haddock to face murder questions

By Barry McCaffrey

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Special Branch agent Mark Haddock is expected to be questioned within days about a series of sectarian murders after a major breakthrough in the police investigation into a UVF gang.

Two north Belfast brothers are to appear in court this morning charged with the October 2000 murder of UDA leader Tommy English.

It is understood both men are cooperating with police and may have already identified other members of the gang, including Haddock.

Haddock is understood to have been one of the four gunmen who shot English (40) dead in front of his wife at their home in Newtownabbey.

Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan has said Haddock and his Mount Vernon gang were protected from prosecution by Special Branch.

It is understood one of English's killers may be identified by forensic evidence.

The killing took place in October 2000 so the Good Friday Agreement does not cover it.

Security sources last night suggested more arrests linked to the Mount Vernon murders would take place in the coming days.

Haddock is being held in isolation in Maghaberry Prison.

He was previously arrested a week after the English murder but said he and three other men had been letting off fireworks at the time.

Last week The Irish News reported that the Historical Enquiries Team had been given £1 million to investigate the Mount Vernon UVF's involvement in at least 16 murders.

Raymond McCord last night welcomed the development.

His original complaint to Mrs O'Loan over the police handling of his son Raymond's murder led to Haddock's activities being exposed.

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