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### News

## O'Loan studies Bradford case

Sunday, May 06, 2007

By Ciaran McGuigan

The police Ombudsman has indicated she may investigate the circumstances surrounding the IRA murder of Ulster Unionist MP Rev Robert Bradford.

It follows revelations in Sunday Life (below) that both Special Branch and Army intelligence officers knew about the murder plot three days before the brutal attack.

Belfast City Councillor Jim Rodgers last week met with Nuala O'Loan to ask her to probe the circumstances surrounding the murder of his friend more than 25 years ago, in light of the shock new claims that he was sacrificed to protect agents within the IRA.

Following his 90-minute discussion about the murder, Mr Rodgers said he was still determined to uncover the truth about the murder.

"When I read the article it troubled my conscience. I knew that I would need to find out exactly why he was killed," said the councillor.

"Robert was someone who I held in very high esteem.

"I have been able to speak to the Police Ombudsman and it was a very interesting meeting.

"And with some further inquiries, and the blessing of the family, I hope to be able to go back with more information and hopefully we will be able to finally get to the bottom of Robert's murder."

A spokesman for the Police Ombudsman said the meeting had been "interesting and useful", but no investigation had yet been started.

The South Belfast MP was gunned down by an IRA hit-squad at Finaghy Community Centre in November 1981.

It has now been suggested that he was sacrificed in order to protect agents operating inside the IRA.

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