

C O N F I D E N T I A L

not blessed to PUS(B)

or Sir K Bloomfield

I have done SofS(L) copy

FROM: PS/MINISTER OF STATE
26 APRIL 1990

cc PS/SofS (L&B) - B
PS/MofS (L&B) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Sir K Bloomfield - 2 Sec 5
Mr Burns - B
Mr Ledlie - B
Mr A Wilson - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Alston - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Daniell - B
Mr J McConnell - B

MISS MILLS - B

"UDR 4"

Further to my minute of 23 April and in confirmation of my discussion with Ken Duncan on 24 April and our telephone conversation today, the Minister has spoken with John McConnell and now feels that it would be inappropriate to follow-up on the action requested in the last sentence of my minute. I should be grateful if you would cancel any further action on the request for advice from the RUC on the points made by Ken Maginnis regarding this case. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

David Kyle

C D KYLE

PS/MINISTER OF STATE

26 APRIL 1990

CM/DRMAWH/375

C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL

783/4

2 Sec 5

FROM: PS/Minister of State
23 April 1990

cc PS/Sofs (B&L) - B
PS/Mofs (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir K Bloomfield
Mr Burns - B
Mr Ledlie - B
Mr A Wilson - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Alston - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Daniell - B
Miss Mills - B

Mr J McConnell - B

"UDR 4"

The Minister of State has seen Mr McConnell's note of 18 April relating his discussions with Ken Maginnis about the UDR 4 and he has also seen PUS's comments of 20 April on the subject. The Minister has indicated that he agrees with PUS and that he would be interested in the RUC's view of what Maginnis said and the implications. He has commented, "to upset a conviction without making anyone else amenable to justice is the worst outcome for the courts and for law enforcement agencies".

I should be grateful if by sight of this minute Miss Mills could arrange for advice on the RUC's view of what Maginnis said.

Signed

C D KYLE
PS/Minister of State

CONFIDENTIAL

LD/MINOFs/2180

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From PUS
20 April 1990

Secs

L/4/61/DMC



Mr J McConnell

cc PS/SofS (L&B)
PS/MofS (L&B) ~~28~~ X
Sir K Bloomfield
Mr Burns
Mr Ledlie
Mr A Wilson
Mr Thomas
Mr Alston
Mr Bell
Mr Daniell
Miss Mills

"UDR 4"

Thank you for sending me a copy of your note, dated 18 April, of your discussion with Mr Maginnis. The second half of paragraph 3 of the note gives me some concern, on two grounds.

2. First, if it is true that "the weapon used in the murder" is available, then it is duty of those working on behalf of the UDR 4 to bring it forward as new evidence. Second, the reason that Mr Maginnis gives against producing this evidence is one which the NIO could not possibly accept. If there are uncomfortable implications for Government associated with this piece of evidence, then those implications simply have to be faced and no-one should be left in any doubt about Government's preparedness to do just that.

3. Unless copy addressees have any comments of their own, my strong advice to you is that you should take an early opportunity of speaking again to Mr Maginnis. You might say that you have been reflecting on the points that he made to you about the murder weapon and that, having taken advice, you thought it important that he should be in no doubt about where Government stands on the issue.

John

JOHN BLELLOCH

20 April 1990

CONFIDENTIAL

PAB/6134/RG

FROM: J E McCONNELL
DATE: 18 APRIL 1990

Note for the Record

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
 PS/Minister of State (B&L) - B
 PS/PUS (B&L) - B
 [PS/Sir Kenneth Bloomfield - B
 Mr Burns - B
 Mr Ledlie - B
 Mr Wilson - B
 Mr Thomas - B
 Mr Alston - B
 Mr Bell - B
 Mr Daniell - B

"UDR 4"

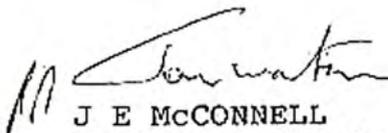
During a lengthy discussion earlier this week with Ken Maginnis he spent some of the time updating me about the work he was doing on behalf of the above men. He is working on a dossier, along with Peter Robinson, which he hopes they will submit to HMG in the near future.

2. In response to some probing from me he admitted that they had in reality no new evidence and that they would probably try to pursue the case on the basis that there was insufficient evidence presented by the prosecution to obtain a conviction in the first place. Over the last few days he has staged a reconstruction of the incident which apparently threw up so many improbable actions by the convicted as to sustain his belief that there is at least some doubt about the case.

3. Mr Maginnis then made a reference to some discussions which had taken place with protestant paramilitaries (he stressed that he had not engaged in conversations with the organisation and did not support anyone else who did) and a member of the group preparing the dossier during which it was suggested that the weapon used in the murder should be offered as evidence in the hope that it would strengthen the group's case. Mr Maginnis had refused to go along with this saying to me that he was afraid that the gun would simply complicate matters in that it might have been traced back to UDR sources.

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4. A meeting took place yesterday in Mr Maginnis' home of those who are preparing the dossier. I also met Peter Robinson yesterday who confirmed that they ie himself and Maginnis et al were concentrating more on the prosecution case in the first instance rather than any new evidence. Robinson did however say that they were hopeful that a further scrutiny of evidence taken at the time of the incident and the comparison of this with certain "tests" would give grounds for concern about the safety of the convictions.


J E McCONNELL
Political Affairs Division
SH EXT 2238

RG/6184