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ITV DOCUMENTARY ON 1974 DUBLIN AND MONAGHAN BOMBINGS

SUMMARY

1. IRISH GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGATIONS. GARDA SOURCES TELL PRESS THAT THE PROGRAMME CONTAINS NO NEW EVIDENCE. OPPOSITION TDS CALL FOR AN INQUIRY.

DETAIL

2. ASKED ABOUT THE 'FIRST TUESDAY' DOCUMENTARY ON THE DUBLIN AND MONAGHAN BOMBINGS, SHOWN ON ITV ON 6 JULY, THE TAOISEACH TOLD THE DAIL ON 7 JULY THAT ALL THE ALLEGATIONS WOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THIS WAS LATER CONFIRMED BY THE MINISTER, MRS GEOGHEGAN-QUINN. EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE, SHE SAID, TO BRING THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO JUSTICE. THE GARDAI'S FILES ON THE EVENTS WERE STILL OPEN AND THEY WOULD BE ASSESSING AS A MATTER OF URGENCY WHETHER FURTHER INVESTIGATION WAS REQUIRED. SHE STRESSED THAT ONLY EVIDENCE PRODUCED BY A PROPER GARDA INVESTIGATION WOULD BE ADMISSIBLE IN COURT: 'SUSPICIONS, HOWEVER STRONGLY HELD, DO NOT SECURE CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS', SHE SAID. SENIOR GARDAI SOURCES HAVE ALREADY TOLD JOURNALISTS THE PROGRAMME CONTAINED NO NEW EVIDENCE WHICH MIGHT FURTHER THE INVESTIGATION AND POURED COLD WATER ON THE DOCUMENTARY.

3. MEANWHILE, A NUMBER OF OPPOSITION TDS INCLUDING FINE GAEL'S AUSTIN CURRIE HAVE CALLED FOR A NEW INQUIRY INTO THE BOMBINGS. JOHN BRUTON, FINE GAEL LEADER, CALLED FOR A DAIL SELECT COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY, EMPOWERED TO HEAR EVIDENCE.

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DUBLIN AND MONAGHAN BOMBINGS 1974: DOCUMENTARY 6 JULY

SUMMARY

1. 'FIRST TUESDAY' DOCUMENTARY ON 1974 DUBLIN AND MONAGHAN BOMBINGS ALREADY AROUSING MUCH MEDIA INTEREST. DUBLIN'S LORD MAYOR CALLS FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATION. JUSTICE MINISTER WILL AWAIT THE BROADCAST BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO DO.

DETAIL

2. PUBLIC EXPECTATION AND CONCERN ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE REVEALED IN THE 'FIRST TUESDAY' TV DOCUMENTARY TO BE BROADCAST TOMORROW EVENING (6 JULY) ABOUT THE 1974 DUBLIN BOMBINGS IS GROWING FOLLOWING NEWSPAPER REPORTS OVER THE WEEKEND AND TODAY THAT THE GARDAI KNEW WHO HAD CARRIED OUT THE BOMBINGS BUT HAD INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO INSTITUTE PROSECUTION PROCEEDINGS. THE SUNDAY INDEPENDENT REPORTED THAT THE FILM WILL ALLEGE THAT BRITISH ARMY PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED IN MAKING SOME OF THE BOMBS AND THAT THE RUC KNEW IN ADVANCE OF THE PLAN TO BOMB MONAGHAN.

3. THE OUTGOING LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN, GAY MITCHELL TD, HAS CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SELECT DAIL COMMITTEE, ASSISTED BY A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR, TO 'FERRET OUT THE TRUTH'. IT IS REPORTED THAT HE WILL ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE MATTER IN THE DAIL TOMORROW AS A SPECIAL NOTICE QUESTION. MEANWHILE NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT MAIRE GEOGHEGAN-QUINN, JUSTICE MINISTER, HAS SAID SHE WILL WAIT TO SEE THE DOCUMENTARY BEFORE DECIDING ON WHAT, IF ANY, ACTION TO TAKE.

4. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE MATTER. IF WE DO WE WILL CONFIRM THAT IT IS AN ISSUE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FOR THE POLICE AUTHORITIES.

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