

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## IRELAND



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Handed to Townsend by British  
Ambassador in Govt. Buildings  
to-day. - 6/4.

UNCLASSIFIED

5/4  
Minister for Justice, A.S.J.  
Minister for Defence.  
cc Personnel  
Tancie  
Minister  
Secretary  
Mr. Woods

In response to the Irish Government's request to the British Ambassador to clarify the situation arising from the allegation in a Belfast Court that RUC Special Branch officers had been operating in the Republic, we have been instructed to say:

- (i) It is RUC policy, enshrined in explicit instructions, that members of the force should not cross the border while on duty.
- (ii) The United Kingdom Government is very concerned and regrets that these instructions should have apparently been violated.
- (iii) The trial of <sup>Constable</sup> Robinson was about the killing of ~~John~~ Grew and Carroll, and not about the allegations of an incursion across the border or the attempted cover-up. <sup>and noted the</sup> The question of possible criminal and/or disciplinary proceedings of course arises, but <sup>the</sup> that issue cannot be prejudged until the necessary enquiries have been carried out.

British Embassy  
Dublin  
5 April 1984