

DB694/95  
RECEIVED 30 JAN 1995

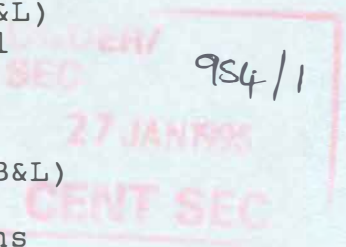
824/94

From: J A DANIELL  
AUS (CRIMINAL JUSTICE)  
25 January 1995

1. Mr Legge  
2. Mr Thomas



cc PS/S of S (B&L)  
PS/PUS (B&L)  
PS/Mr Fall  
Mr Legge  
Mr Thomas  
Mr Steele  
Mr Wood (B&L)  
Mr Currie  
Mrs Collins



984/11

PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L)

*in the light of...*  
*30/1*

INTIMIDATION AGAINST FRANCIS ROCKS - MEMBER OF POLICE AUTHORITY

The Minister will recall the appointment of Councillor Rocks to the Authority in July of last year. He was an SDLP Councillor but resigned from the Party after they had suspended him due to his membership of PANI.

2. Reid Armstrong telephoned me earlier in the week to report that Councillor Rocks emerged from mass on 21 January to discover that his car, parked in the Church grounds, had been badly vandalised. All windows and lights had been smashed and the body work damaged.

3. I received a further call this morning from Mr Armstrong who said that yesterday the Post Office intercepted a suspicious package addressed to Councillor Rocks. The police were called and a bullet was found inside the jiffy bag.

4. Councillor Rocks joined the Authority, knowing that there was a possibility of intimidation of one form or another; nevertheless, he is (understandably) badly shaken and is particularly concerned for his family.



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

5. As for who is responsible, we can only speculate. It could be individuals acting on their own initiative, or members of an organisation (most likely republican, although he is known to have been concerned in the past about the threat from the Loyalist side), acting with, or more probably without, clearance from its leadership.

6. This is a worrying development and it would be particularly damaging if Councillor Rocks felt constrained to resign from the Authority. At the moment he is standing firm, but any further incidents, especially if they were directed at his family, might cause him to reconsider.

7. The Authority and the RUC are doing all they can to reassure and advise Councillor Rocks. He already has some (low key) protection in his house, provided under the auspices of the Key Persons Protection Scheme. I have asked Mr Armstrong to pass on to him that we will review the level of protection urgently, if that is his wish after receiving advice from the RUC.

8. Mr Armstrong has agreed to keep us posted on developments and in particular to let me know if assistance or reassurance is needed from the NIO. At present however, Councillor Rocks wants the matter to be treated in as low key a way as possible. He is particularly anxious to avoid publicity of the incidents (this may be difficult given the nature of the incidents and the wide circle of people who must be aware of them).

9. I will keep you informed of developments.

(SGD)

J A DANIELL

MH 27500

13746

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

CONFIDENTIAL

HEAD OFF THE FILE  
1283  
27 JAN 1995  
824/94

FROM: P JOHNSTON  
PS/SIR JOHN WHEELER  
26 JANUARY 1995

B750/95  
RECEIVED 31 JAN 1995

*Handwritten signature*

- cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
- PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Felton - B
- Mr Legge - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Steele - B
- Mr Wood (L&B) - B
- Mrs Collins - B
- Mr Currie - B
- Mr Maccabe - B

UNDER/ SEC 1015/1  
30 JAN 1995  
CENT SEC

C

MR DANIELL - B

*Handwritten signature*

INTIMIDATION AGAINST FRANCIS ROCKS - MEMBER OF POLICE AUTHORITY

The Minister was grateful for your submission of 25 January which advised him on a number of recent incidents which appear to be designed to intimidate Councillor Francis Rocks.

2. Sir John is most concerned to read this and has commented that any help we can give must be made subject to Councillor Rocks' wishes; it would be most damaging if our one 'SDLP' Councillor felt constrained to resign from PANI. Sir John has also commented that the disgraceful treatment of Councillor Rocks by certain elements of the SDLP looks even worse in the light of these intimidatory attacks.

SIGNED

Paul A Johnston  
PS/Sir John Wheeler  
OAB Ext 6498  
26 January 1995

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WHEELER/DEH/1939