

EP 43/98

RESTRICTED

Mrs Gibson 16/8
25/8

FROM: HADGE MAYES
DUTY OFFICER
19 AUGUST 1998

16/8
19 AUG 1998
SECRET SEC

MS [Signature]

TO: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B&L)

Copies to:

PS/Mr Murphy (B&L)
PS/Mr Ingram (B&L)
PS/Mr McFall (L)
PS/Lord Dubs (L)
PS/PUS (B&L)
PS/Mr J Semple
Mr Watkins
Mr Jeffrey
Mr Bell
Mr Blackwell
Mr Shannon
Mrs Brown
Mr Leach
Mr Kelly
Mr Daniell
Mr Stephens
Mr Perry
Mr Hill
Mrs Collins
Mr Whysall (B & L)
Director

Mr T Smyth
Mr Ferguson
Mr Maccabe
Mr Brooker
Al Sect
Mr Warner (B&L)
Mr Lappin (B&L)
Liaison
Info (L)
Mr Clarke
Ms Todd
Mr Margetts
Mrs Pritchard
Mr Beeton
Mr Barbour
Mr McAleer
Mr Sloan
Mr Banim (IPL)
Ms Mapstone (IPL)
Mrs Osborne
Mr Harding, BIS via IPL

Mr Myles
Miss Hussain
Miss Dullaghan
Miss F Obazee
Miss J Gibson
Office Services (for Duty Officer)
Mr Stevenson
Mr Tansley (HME, Dublin)
Mr Travis
Mr Fergusson (RID)
Mr Shackell (RID)
Mr Brett (RID)

By Hand:
PS/Mr Murphy DFP
PS/Mr Ingram DED
PS/Mr McFall (DENI&DHSS)
PS/Lord Dubs (DOE&DANI)

SITUATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD: 0700 HOURS TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 1998
TO 0700 HOURS WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 1998

SECURITY

pm Two statements made to the Dublin offices of the Irish News by the Real IRA. The first claimed responsibility for the Omagh bombing, the second reported a suspension of 'all military operations' by the group with effect from midnight. Copies of texts attached.

Tandragee Co Armagh 0010 hours Two armed men reportedly entered The Talk of the Town bar sprinkled petrol around and then set the premises alight before fleeing the scene in a car belonging to a member of staff. Extensive damage caused to first floor.

PRISONS All quiet.

(Signed)

HADGE MAYES
DUTY OFFICER

EMERGENCY PLANNING
BRANCH
24 AUG 1998
RECEIVED

RESTRICTED

TEXT OF STATEMENTS MADE PM 18 AUGUST 1998 TO IRISH NEWS BY GROUP CALLING ITSELF 'OGLAIGH NA hEIREANN'

1. "This is about the explosion. This is Oglaiigh na hEireann. There were three warnings put in. There were 40 minute warnings on each of them - two to UTV and one to the Samaritans in Coleraine.

"Each time the call was made, it was very clear and the people talked back."

"The location was 300 to 400 yards from the Courthouse on the Main Street. At no time was it said it was near the Courthouse. It was a commercial target."

"Despite media reports it was not our intention at any time to kill any civilians."

"It was a commercial target, part of an ongoing war against the Brits."

"We offer apologies to the civilians."

2. "As a direct result of the Omagh tragedy and also in response to the appeals of Bertie Ahern and others we are currently embarking on a process of consultation on our future direction.

In the meantime, all military operations have been suspended from 12 midnight."