

201019.

29

FAX MESSAGE

12th July, 1996

Caps

To: Mr. Paddy Teahon

From: Sean O hUiginn

Pages: 1 + 2

Report entitled "Contact from Ms. Rita O'Hare" follows for information

Ms Nolan

*not based on Duesyaken
by later events and
contact with Tadisean*

huk

15-7-96

CONFIDENTIAL**Contact from Ms. Rita O'Hare, Sinn Féin**

Ms. O'Hare contacted me this afternoon to make a number of points:

1. She was satisfied from enquiries she made that the IRA had nothing to do with the shootings in Belfast last night. (I had the impression she thinks it may have been the IRSP).
2. She said the pressure on Sinn Féin was not from the paramilitaries as such, but rather from the streets. She said their people on the ground had been doing their utmost to calm matters. (We have independent confirmation from the ground of this latter fact, and there is little doubt that Sinn Féin leaders have so far calmed matters, whether for tactical or more general considerations.)
3. She raised a number of cases of RUC over-reaction or harassment, particularly in Derry. I told her we were following these matters up, having already been seized of them from other sources.
4. She asked me about the statement by the Minister for Social Welfare at lunchtime on Sinn Féin contacts. I said I was not aware of, and did not anticipate, any change in Government policy which had prevailed since the breakdown of the ceasefire, i.e. channels of communication open at official level, but no Ministerial contact without a ceasefire. I said it would be unfortunate if a request were made which had to be rebuffed.

2

5. She contacted me subsequently, specifically at Mr. Adams' suggestion, to say that expressions of concern from here about the injured would be very helpful. (She has heard rumours that the victim of the RUC land rover in Armagh is being kept on the life support machine to avoid a announcement of a death at this time). I said that we were naturally concerned at the injuries and I felt sure spokespersons would find appropriate opportunities to make that concern public.

SOH
Sean Ó hUiginn
12 July 1996