

SEEN BY

AFFAIRS

Mr. W. Kumar,
Wales.In view of Tadiarh's
comments

Suz

27/8.

FAX

C O

S H

To: S.

From:

Fax Nr.:

Subject:

Date:

Pages:

There is a need for
a further public
condemnation by
the Govt. of this

phenomenon.

Mr. Lillie

PR Tech

Mr. Hage

Silence

I have mentioned

to Mr. Montgomerie

I agree with

the Tadiarh but the

occasion and context

will be important.

In K 23.8.96

beatings

MESSAGE:

As discussed.

Tadiarh

This is a first response by the
Belfast Secretariat to your queries
earlier today. Further response
will follow at the beginning of next
week

23-AUG-96 FRI 14:22

4754505

P. 1

In K 23.8.96.

Punishment Beatings

Background Note

1. Since Autumn 1994 punishment beatings have increased significantly in volume and seriousness. There have been approximately 400 attacks (see Annex) of which two-thirds may be attributed to republican activists and one-third to loyalists. There have also been 15 reported incidents of punishment shootings, 14 of which may be attributed to loyalists, since the loyalist ceasefire.¹
2. The matter was discussed at the Anglo-Irish Conference on 20 December 1995 and the Communiqué reiterated the concern of the two Governments "about the continuing and increasing incidence of so called "punishment" attacks and other forms of lawlessness". The matter was also raised at the Intergovernmental Conference in May 1996 by the Secretary of State. In response the Tánaiste repeated the Government's condemnation of punishment beatings.
3. We have used channels to Sinn Féin since the August 1994 ceasefire to convey the Government's opposition to these attacks. At the last Ministerial meeting with Sinn Féin (prior to the ending of the IRA ceasefire) on 17 January the matter was discussed with Gerry Adams. The Tánaiste expressed the views of the Government at the continued beatings as an "appalling and unacceptable abuse of human rights". Officials have continued to make clear to Sinn Féin that these beatings must stop.
4. In recent weeks Sinn Féin (Councillor Joe Austin) have again denied that the party is involved in punishment attacks. Austin reiterated the party's position that "the issue is to have people respect and support a policing service".
5. Several attacks have received a large degree of media attention in recent weeks:

Newry teenager Donal Gray, a professional League of Ireland footballer, was attacked by a group of men claiming to be from the IRA on 16 July. Mr. Gray was beaten with cudgels spiked with nails. At least one of the men was armed.

In another recent incident, 9 year old Laura McCracken, her 14 and 15 year old brothers and her 14 year old uncle were injured in a punishment style attack near their home in Crossan Walk, Lisburn. They were attacked by three masked men. The four were released after treatment in hospital. The motive for this attack remains unclear.

On 13 August the home of SDLP Councillor Hugh Lewsley in Twinbrook, West Belfast was attacked. A brick was thrown through the window of the house. There were no injuries. The attack followed remarks made by Lewsley on the issue of punishment

¹In addition there were seven killings carried out by republicans operating under the "Direct Action Against Drugs" rubric in the period from April 1995-January 1996 (five in the last month of that period), which were strongly condemned by both Governments, both in public and in meetings with Sinn Féin, who denied responsibility.

Further
rep'd - on
Mr. Lewsley's
position to
follow.

In Kinross
23.8.96.

beatings on a Channel 4 documentary that evening. Lewsley has been the victim of two previous punishment attacks, attributed to his vocal condemnation of such attacks.

6. No punishment attacks were reported during the duration of the Drumcree standoff or subsequent violence (6-14 July).

"Punishment" Beatings since the Ceasefires²³

1994

	<u>Loyalist</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Unclear</u>	<u>Total</u>
September	5	5	1	<u>11</u>
October	3	2		<u>5</u>
November	3	3	1	<u>7</u>
December		4		<u>4</u>

1995

January	7	5		<u>12</u>
February	4	24		<u>28</u>
March	3	12	3	<u>18</u>
April	2	4		<u>6</u>
May	12	16	2	<u>30</u>
June	3	11		<u>14</u>
July	8	10	3	<u>21</u>
August	5	11		<u>16</u>
September	5	12	3	<u>20</u>

²³There have been 14 recorded incidents of Loyalist punishment shootings since the Loyalist ceasefire and 1 incident believed to have been carried out by Republicans.

²⁴British Government statistics released on 26 July 1996 indicate a greater number of such attacks, namely 454 in total, 277 republican and 177 loyalist. Our figures are gleaned from security reports from the British side and media reports.

October	3	21		24
November	7	12		19
December	3	9	6	18
1996				
January	8	13		21
February	6	16		22
March	5	19	1	25
April	4	15		19
May	9	8	2	19
June	2	20	3	25
July	4	12	2	18
August	5	8		13
Total	116	272	27	415

Anglo-Irish Division,
Department of Foreign Affairs
23 August 1996