

NEC - 34/96



DUP News Release

Alderman Peter D Robinson MP

4E
19/9
PST: PSS, Ministers Owen,
de Rosier & Taylor; Attorney
General; Minister of State
Coveney; Messrs. Teahon,
Donlon & Dalton; Amb.
London and Washington; Joint
Secretary; Counsellors A-I.

Secretary of State Fails to Condemn Threat

18/09/96

In his letter to me about the death threat against Billy Wright and Alex Kerr, the Secretary of State failed to condemn the terrorist death threat. In the only government statement on the CLMC death threat, again the government failed to condemn the threat. In their five page exoneration of the PUP and UDP indicating that there was no breach of the Mitchell Principles neither the British nor Dublin government condemned the death threat.

This absence of condemnation is capable of conveying a message to the Ulster public that the government would not be unhappy if these two men, whom they consider to be a thorn in their flesh, are to remain under threat - or worse.

This conclusion can be drawn all the more easily set against the back cloth of an inexplicable decision that no prosecution is to be taken against a man intercepted by the RUC on his way to the home in Mid-Ulster of Alex Kerr, armed with a pistol. The man admitted under questioning by the RUC that he had been sent by the paramilitary Leadership in Belfast but used the standard IRA excuse that he had been acting under duress and only intended to frighten Mr Kerr.

The decision to deny the Courts the opportunity to determine the validity of his excuse and to take no action on the firearms charge will again lead people to believe that the authorities will be soft on anyone else who might seek to carry out similar activity.

*** Note to Editors:**

Mr Robinson is believed to have made the same accusation during Monday's session of the Talks. It is understood that the Secretary of State did not reply.