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in B...
Sunday.

Prime Minister

Paddy Mayhew spoke as agreed. Hume mentions 'regret' below but makes nothing of it. The press have not so far picked up on it either. So far so good.

14 February 1997

Doorstep at Stormont Castle - following John Hume's meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss 'Bloody Sunday'.

Hume

We had a meeting with the Secretary of State today following my request to the Prime Minister for an inquiry to the events of Bloody Sunday and the Prime Minister asked the Secretary of State to meet myself with the representatives of the families and we presented the Secretary of State with a very complete volume of all the new evidence that is available. Don will give you a summary of what that evidence is - the Secretary of State agreed to study it carefully with a view to considering our request for a new inquiry.

Media

Was the meeting shorter than you anticipated?

Hume

Well, the meeting was brief and to the point. It was very clear what the meeting was about - the presentation of new evidence which was in a very substantial volume of material and each person spoke and stated their view of what they wanted. The Secretary of State responded and said he would study the whole matter very carefully and of course that he regretted what had happened on Bloody Sunday. That it had been a serious tragedy.

Media

How would you describe the Secretary of State's mood?

Hume

I regarded it as a constructive meeting and I think the Secretary of State showed he was sensitive to the overall situation.

Media

...this new evidence?

Hume

The Secretary of State agreed to study the new evidence and of course you can take it for granted it is new evidence. The families know very well that it is new evidence and Don, in particular, who has done all the research.

Don Mullan

Some of the evidence is new to us but in fact all the evidence has been in possession of the British Government going back to 1972. We presented the Secretary of State today with eye witness testimonies which confirm the fact that the British Army were also shooting live ammunition into the Bogside in addition to the First Battalion Parachute Regiment.

Also, an eye witness testimony of the shooting of William Nash which would suggest that he and two others - Michael McDaid and John Young were shot by a sniper operating on the walls.

We gave him a medical note and diagrams by Dr McClean.

The inquest report and post mortem.

Transcripts of British Army radio messages.

Transcripts of RUC radio messages - these are important as they confirm the army was firing from the walls and claiming hits. These were presented to Lord Widgery but he ruled them inadmissible on grounds that they were illegally obtained.

A copy of the Eighth Infantry Brigade Log Book 30 January 1972 Serial Number 241 - a shooting report from the Royal Anglican Regiment again confirming they were firing from the walls and claiming two hits.

Memorandum HO21964 in which we have a hand written note from the Tribunal Secretary talking about "the Lord Chief Justice will pile up the case against the deceased." We presented him with a copy of Eye Witness Bloody Sunday, the book which was recently published, we gave him copies of the Channel 4 news reports and we gave him then a copy of the sound recordings of the army radio messages and the RUC, so taken together, I think it's a very powerful and convincing body of evidence which we believe warrants the re-opening of the case and there is more to come in that there is the ballistics report of Mr Robert J Braigly from New York and an engineer's report of Mr Brian Murphy's.

Media

Mr Kelly, how did you feel?

John Kelly (relative)

Well, it's like everything else you sit down and you hope that he's listening and what we did we impressed on him the feelings of the relatives of Bloody Sunday and the fact that

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we share the view that the case should be re-opened, especially with this new evidence and that all the people in Derry and all the relatives feel the exact same way about a new independent inquiry. We feel that the evidence is that strong that he can't deny it anymore, so in relation to the meeting itself, we're hoping that we've made a big enough impression for him to listen to us.

Media

Did you get the impression he had an open mind about what you're representing him with?

John Kelly

Well we got an open mind in that respect certainly but what happens when we walk away that's totally up to him whether he accepts the evidence or not but he said he would look fully into it and come back to us as soon as possible in relation to re-opening the case.

Media

Are you hopeful?

John Kelly

We are very hopeful

Media

How significant was this meeting today in terms of the plea for a new inquiry?

John Hume

Well, it's quite significant, it's a very important meeting because if a new inquiry is to take place the decision has to be taken by the Government and we were meeting Government at the highest level in Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State.