

60  
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SECRET

Copy No 38 of 47

Redacted under FOI exemption sections 38(1)(b) and 40(2).

ANNEX B TO

13002

DATED 29 JULY 1975

EXTREMIST PROTESTANT ACTIVITY

LURGAN UVF

1. On 27 Jul 75, William Henry Wilson HANNA, (OC LURGAN UVF) [redacted], LURGAN was shot dead outside his house by an unidentified gunman. It is believed a revolver was used. [redacted], LURGAN whose wife works in [redacted], was wounded. They were returning from the British Legion Club, Carnegie Street, LURGAN when the incident took place. The attackers were unmasked, indicating non-local involvement.
2. HANNA was well known in LURGAN Protestant extremist circles. He was a member of the UDR until Mar 73 and previously a Regular soldier winning the Military Medal in Korea. As a result of his military career he was known to give instruction on small arms to members of Mid-Ulster UVF. HANNA was also believed involved in bombing activities.
3. It remains a matter of speculation as to who were responsible for his killing. Current opinion is that Protestant extremists were the perpetrators. The car used in the attack was stolen from MOIRA. It was only three weeks old and had a steering lock that could only have been released using the correct key. The owner, [redacted], LURGAN, lived half a mile from HANNA. The car was reported to have been in Mourneview Estate, which is solidly Protestant, for some time before the attack took place. A local Republican would not have dared remain in the Estate for any length of time, for fear of being intercepted by a vigilante patrol. Public opinion in and around LURGAN and the BROWNLOW Sector suggests that HANNA was assassinated by extreme Protestants. The motive is unknown but a possible reason is that he may have been considered a security threat by extreme Protestants. In Nov 73, while under arrest at CASTLEREAGH (after his house had been searched) he was suspected of giving information. Lately he had been accused of being weak and indefinite. There is also a possibility he may have been embessling funds.
4. If extreme Republicans are responsible, then this is the third time that extreme Loyalists have been elected as targets. [redacted] (TANDRAGEE UVF), [redacted], TANDRAGEE, was ambushed at the BALLYGANLEY roundabout on 30 Jun 75. [redacted], LURGAN, was probably the target of a IRA booby-trap at his school in LURGAN on 7 Jul 75. This shows that the IRA probably have a notion of identities of senior members of extreme Protestant organisations. [redacted], who is [redacted] is believed to have Republican sympathies; he could have "set up" HANNA.
5. After the killing there were immediate anti-SF utterings by the inhabitants of Mourneview. Five UUUC Convention members, [redacted] and [redacted] also accused the SF of failure to protect Protestants and laxity of following-up the incident.

Page 6 of 12

SECRET



**SECRET**

61

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6. Robert John JACKSON (UVF), [REDACTED], LURGAN, visited the scene of the crime shortly after the killing. He then drove to the Ulster Social Club, PORTADOWN. JACKSON is likely to assume leadership of LURGAN UVF. He is energetic and will probably re-activate the operations of the group.

7. A suggestion that [REDACTED] was the target can be discounted. Although [REDACTED], there have been no indications that the PIRA intend to take action against relatives of UDR members or employees within SF bases.

BELFAST UVF in NORTH DOWN

8. BELFAST UVF have again made appearances in North DOWN. On 21 Jul 75, ATO neutralised a parcel bomb at the Parochial Hall, TECONNAUGHT (GR 4249). The resultant explosion severely damaged the building. The Hall was used for bingo sessions, revenue being allocated to the local Catholic church. This was probably the motive for the attack, plus the fact there was speculation among extreme Protestants as to just where the revenue went. Members of BELFAST UVF are believed responsible for the attack, assistance being given by local extremists, either from BALLYNAHINCH or KILLYLEAGH. Most of the recent incidents in this area including the bombing of Scotch Bar, DOWNPATRICK on 6 Jun 75, and robbery of Ulster Bank, DONAGHADEE on 26 Jun 75 have been carried out by BELFAST UVF, mainly from the HOLYWOOD area.

9. On 25 Jul 75, the Post Office, BALLYGOWAN (GR 4363) was robbed of £50 by two youths one of whom was armed. This was a typical BELFAST extreme Protestant robbery.