

CONFIDENTIAL



*Hine Minute*  
*PDP*  
*11/3.*

Jp.028

Mr Powell

Air Marshal Hine

I attach a minute from the Head of the Assessments Staff. On the basis of our present information, the most likely theory seems to be that of a "vicious joke".

PERCY CRADOCK

11 March 1985

CONFIDENTIAL





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11 March 1985

SIR P CRADOCK *MS*

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF AIR MARSHAL HINE

1. There have been no new developments today in the case of the apparent attempted assassination of Air Marshal Hine on 9 March. The German police have been unable to recover any of the three bullets, allegedly fired at him from a 'long barrelled gun' by two men in a BMW.\* The police have raised the possibility that the incident might have been a "vicious joke". It seems unlikely to have been a planned attack since the Air Marshal had intended to travel by helicopter and decided to go by car at the last moment. He was in civilian clothes, travelling in a car with NATO plates. The German police believe that it was highly unlikely he was being followed.

2. Forces' Security officials and JIC Germany have met to consider the attack. They found no evidence of any connection with the Red Army Faction (RAF) or other terrorist group. The method of attack has however been used by the RAF before. While JIC Germany saw no need to raise the alert state they have reissued the warning to be on the alert and drawn attention to the possibility of this form of attack. Police investigations continue.

*MR Morland*

M R MORLAND

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No tracers of bullets  
have been found on  
the car or elsewhere