

RC
(6)
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/VE RENTON
PS/PDS
~~SIR J. SULLIVAN~~
VE J. JARVIS

PS/S. O. S
PS/MR R. ANDREW
OAB 1/56
VE BERNARD
VE ANNE BURNS
J. LYON
VE BOYD SMITH

NIO



D/210
D/PSD (2)
D INFO D
D/NEWS D

SIR B ARMSTRONG
DIO

CASSETT

PS/XC 10 DOWNING STREET (3)

IMMEDIATE

GRS520
UNCLASSIFIED
FM DUBLIN 141730Z OCT 84
TO IMMEDIATE DESKBY FCO 141830Z (FOR RESIDANT CLERK)
TELEGRAM NUMBER 553 OF 14 OCTOBER 1984
INFO IMMEDIATE DESKBY 150900Z NIO (B) NIO (L)

ADVANCE COPY
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BRIGHTON BOMBING

1. TODAY'S SUNDAY PRESS CARRIES AN EXCLUSIVE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY MICHAEL KEANE, UNDER THE HEADLINE "THATCHER BOMB WAS IRA'S SECOND BID"

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS "THE PROVISIONAL IRA TRIED TO KILL THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, AND MEMBERS OF HER CABINET IN THE IMPERIAL HOTEL, BLACKPOOL, IN 1983 AND THE ATTEMPT WAS ONLY CALLED OFF AT THE LAST MINUTE, THE SUNDAY PRESS HAS LEARNED.

THE ACTIVE SERVICE UNIT WHICH ON FRIDAY BOMBED THE TORY PARTY CONFERENCE HOTEL IN BRIGHTON WAS UNABLE TO COMPLETE ALL THE DETAILS OF THE 1983 ASSASSINATION PLAN IN TIME AND IT WAS DECIDED BY THE IRA'S DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS TO WAIT UNTIL THIS YEAR.

THE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF MRS THATCHER HAS BEEN A PRIORITY WITH THE ARMY COUNCIL OF THE IRA SINCE THE DEATH OF BOBBY SANDS IN MAY 1981 WHEN SHE BECAME NUMBER ONE ON THEIR DEATH LIST. THE UNIT INVOLVED WAS TOLD THAT THERE WAS NOT TO BE ANY MOVE UNTIL ALL SEGMENTS OF THE PLAN CAME TOGETHER.

IN A NEW STRATEGY, THE IRA DID NOT USE ANY VOLUNTEERS FROM IRELAND BUT RECRUITED ENGLISH BORN SYMPATHISERS WHO HAD VOLUNTEERED THEIR

BUT RECRUITED ENGLISH BORN SYMPATHISERS WHO HAD VOLUNTEERED THEIR SERVICES. THIS FOLLOWED PREVIOUS INFILTRATION OF IRA CELLS OPERATING IN BRITAIN BY THE BRITISH SECURITY FORCES.

THE DECISION TO KILL MRS THATCHER WAS TAKEN AT ANY ARMY COUNCIL MEETING IN DUBLIN, AND THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS WAS GIVEN THE TASK OF CARRYING OUT THE ORDER. MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WERE NOT TOLD WHO WAS IN THE IRA UNIT, WHEN OR WHERE THEY WOULD STRIKE.

USING THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM FREDERICK FORSYTH'S BOOK 'THE DAY OF THE JACKAL,' THE IRA EXAMINED THE ITINERARY OF MRS THATCHER AND RIGHTLY CONCLUDED THAT SHE WOULD HAVE TO BE IN THE GRAND HOTEL BRIGHTON, ON THE NIGHT OF THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, WHEN THE CONFERENCE BALL WOULD BE HELD AND WHERE SHE HAD HER SUITE OF ROOMS.

IN THE PAST YEAR MEMBERS OF THE FOUR TO FIVE PERSON UNIT HAVE VISITED THE GRAND HOTEL FREQUENTLY, HAVE STAYED AS GUESTS, HAVE MINGLED WITH DELEGATES TO MANY OTHER CONFERENCEES, FAMILIARISED THEMSELVES WITH EVERY DETAIL OF THE HOTEL'S LAY-OUT AND OBTAINED VITAL INFORMATION AS TO WHERE MRS THATCHER AND HER CABINET WOULD BE IN THE HOTEL AT A GIVEN TIME.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL A LATE STAGE IN THE OPERATION THAT THE 'DEEP COVER' UNIT WERE INSTRUCTED IN HOW TO HANDLE, HIDE AND ACTIVATE BOMBS WHICH WERE THEN PLANTED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT MRS THATCHER AND HER CABINET WERE NOT KILLED THE PROVISIONAL IRA REGARD THE OPERATION AS A SUCCESS.

CONTRARY TO SPECULATION, THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO WRECK THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT BETWEEN THE TAOISEACH, DR FITZGERALD AND MRS THATCHER IN NOVEMBER BUT WAS PART OF THEIR LONG TERM STRATEGY TO FORCE A BRITISH WITHDRAWAL.

'WE DO NOT THINK THAT MRS THATCHER OR ANY BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL DECIDE TO LEAVE IRELAND UNLESS FORCED BY THE IRA TO DO SO', ONE PROVISIONAL SOURCE SAID LAST NIGHT.

THE ATTACK ON THE GRAND HOTEL DOES, HOWEVER DISPEL ANY THEORIES THAT THE PROVISIONALS WOULD ALLOW THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SINN FEIN TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE ARMED CAMPAIGN.'

3. MICHAEL KEANE IS ONE OF THE FOUNDER REPORTERS IN THE PRESS GROUP. HE KNOWS THE NORTH AND CAN BE ASSUMED TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE PROVISIONALS.

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