

of suspect selection was therefore based on these sources of information as well as on information from other sources such as journalistic reporting. This was particularly strong in Northern Ireland and information often came to the attention of police officers via members of the press who specialised in reporting on terrorism or individual contacts.

186. One other contextual point is relevant to any attempt to understand why I, as the SIO, and the SMT approached the issue of suspects in the way we did. As stated earlier, terrorists acted as a team. I did not restrict my enquiries solely towards finding out who planted the device. The murder of Mrs Nelson was likely to have involved a wide conspiracy including those who directed that the event took place, those who obtained the component parts for the device from various sources, those who told others how to put it together, those who put the device together, those who transported it, those who placed it, those who organised a safe house for a forensic wash-up and those who intimidated any possible witnesses. This is not a definitive list. In my experience other conspirators could have included those who provided safe telephones, safe cars or even alibis. Many of these people, although realising a crime was planned, may not have known the specific nature of the target or might even have not become involved until after the event. I would highlight the role of [REDACTED] in the clean up organised by the LVF after the murder of Adrian Lamph as an example of this. The list of suspects in a Northern Ireland terrorist investigation could consequently be considerable. There were good reasons why it was so in the case of the investigation to find Mrs. Nelson's killers.

Reasons for targeting Loyalist Suspects

187. From the beginning of the investigation into the murder of Mrs Nelson all the indicators discussed before pointed to the involvement of Loyalist terrorists in her murder. I would like to comment on the strength of some of these indicators before discussing issues relating to individual suspects:

Intelligence