

The Media

I have briefly mentioned the importance of the media to an investigation such as this. It should be remembered that one of the consequences of the worldwide interest in the "troubles" was that there were more journalists operating in the Province than its population alone would justify. Some of these journalists worked for international agencies such as CNN or the Associated Press. Many had developed good contacts with paramilitary groups from both sides of the community. Indeed, such relationships were often two-way as paramilitary organisations needed "trusted" agencies to get their message out. As the SIO I had to consider any press reports on Mrs. Nelson's death carefully and raise actions to have them further examined. This rarely produced anything as journalists were very protective of their sources. Examples of relevant press reports that I believed needed careful consideration included:

- the **Newspaper 1** story of [REDACTED].99 indicating that [REDACTED] and C Company UDA were involved;
- the BBC [REDACTED] programme of the [REDACTED].99 that looked at the possibility of Orange Volunteers' involvement;
- the interview that Martina Devlin conducted with members of the Red Hand Defenders published by the **Newspaper 3** on [REDACTED].99, immediately after the murder. I return to consider this interview, below; and
- the article by [REDACTED] on the [REDACTED].99 indicating that the bomb-maker was an ex Red Hand Commando from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was an experienced [REDACTED] journalist who would have had contacts in many parts of the Northern Ireland community. [REDACTED] was an ex Red Hand Commando from [REDACTED].

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