

RNI DE-CLASSIFIED

did what we had to do. Whilst nothing was said directly to me by any of the officers involved, I sensed an apprehension in the air about this issue.

Operation Shubr

21. I have been told that Operation Shubr was a surveillance operation against the mid-Ulster LVF which ran intermittently from early to mid-1998 and then continued after the murder of Mrs Nelson. I did not know about this until relatively recently. When examining the [REDACTED] intelligence we received on the Loyalist suspects it would have been very useful for us to have known about this surveillance operation. It would certainly have provided us with investigative opportunities. For example, if [REDACTED] had been captured during a surveillance operation, it would have led us to take statements from the surveillance operatives setting out all the detail [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] I would have wanted to know [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] I would have liked to have seen the logs of Operation Shubr both before and after the murder. It was as important to me as the Operation Fagotto material. In light of the specific requests made during the early stages of the investigation both by Mr Kinkaid and Mr Port, I would feel that this was something that we should have known about.
22. I do not know why details of this operation were not provided to us. This was an ongoing operation and so Special Branch may have considered that if details of the surveillance operation had been passed over to the MIT they would lose control as to where and to whom it would be disseminated. Special Branch were always concerned about protecting their methodology and assets. In their eyes disclosing an ongoing operation to us may have put it in jeopardy if we unwittingly or deliberately disclosed it to others. If this was the reason behind not providing it to the MIT I would have expected them to provide the details to Mr Port so that he could have made his own judgement.
23. Perhaps Special Branch had cogent reasons for not disclosing this operation to us, but I cannot think of one other than for the reason of CHIS protection and protection of