

had been aware of various allegations of “threats” against Rosemary Nelson for some time through various bodies. I simply went back to ask what the statement “the police had received no threats in respect of her” contained in the letter from Superintendent Maxwell to Simon Rogers dated 1 April 1998 RNI 106.199 meant. I believe this would have been by telephone. I may well have made a note of it. The NIO and the police took both the complaints made by Rosemary Nelson and others linked to her and the allegations made by various bodies in respect of Rosemary Nelson seriously.

109. These were important issues. Leaving aside the obvious importance of doing what we could to safeguard life, and of establishing the truth behind the various allegations, there were:

- Political dimensions with both American and Irish interests;
- Internal NI “confidence” dimensions;
- The constantly recycled concerns by different NGOs; and
- The potential for damage to the UK’s reputation in the international arena.

We needed to know and understand what was going on, to be able to deal with all these dimensions effectively and constructively.

110. I remember going through the facts underpinning the assessment and its logic with Command Secretariat. When the police stated that they “had received no threats in respect of Mrs Nelson” this meant that they had not received any intelligence to indicate that any terrorist organisation with the capacity to carry out an attack wanted or intended to harm Mrs Nelson. In assessing the existence or otherwise of a threat the police looked for particular things, such as intelligence indicating a developing intention to harm a particular individual; the targeting activity which would be a precursor to an attack; actual planning in terms of method, timing, location, equipment and personnel; and so forth.

x y  
x