

(620)

## NOTE TO THE BRITISH SIDE

Colin Duffy (Log No. 2346)

1. I refer to previous correspondence in the above.
2. The Committee on the Administration of Justice continues to have the deepest concerns about this case. They believe that the single-witness evidence against Mr Duffy is completely unreliable (and contradicted by numerous other witnesses) and that the charges should be dropped forthwith.
3. Amnesty International has also expressed its concerns regarding the safety of the charges against, and the detainment of, Mr Duffy.
4. We understand that [REDACTED] the brother of the witness, has recently made a statement in which he states that he and the witness's family "are all aware that [REDACTED] cannot be relied upon as a witness..... we are certain that she did not witness those shootings". Overall, her brother paints a rather sad portrait of a disturbed and unreliable woman having the "imagination of a child" and being very vulnerable to suggestion. He indicates that his family have "told police that [REDACTED] can't be believed".
5. We are advised that in a letter to the Secretary of State, Mr. Chris Mullen MP gives it as his opinion that "this is as blatant a case of stupidity and malpractice as I have come across....In any ordinary jurisdiction a case so disgraceful as this would have been thrown out at first instance...." He makes the point that "there are a total of twelve alibi witnesses, and the RUC appear to be relying on a single witness of proven unreliability. In addition, enormous irregularities appear to surround the treatment of Mr Duffy, his solicitor and his witnesses".
6. We continue to have grave concerns that, unless reliable evidence emerges other than that provided by the single prosecution witness, there exists a distinct possibility that this case represents a miscarriage of justice.
7. We would be grateful for clarification on whether we may expect answers to the specific points raised in paragraphs 2 - 4 of our note (copy attached) of 19 August. Our strong view is that these queries do not intrude on the criminal investigation but merely seek to allay our concerns regarding the handling of this case.

  
Kieran Dowling  
9 September 1997