

CONFIDENTIAL

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

CC PC
Blup



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

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19 February 1986

Seen by [initials]
PM
CDP
19/2

Dear Charles

NORTHERN IRELAND : SHOOTING INCIDENT

The Prime Minister may wish to have to hand when she meets the Taoiseach later today details of last night's shooting incident in Northern Ireland, in which a man was killed.

A regular Army patrol on a covert operation in Toome, on the northern shore of Lough Neagh, encountered three men, at least one of whom was armed. When one of them failed to answer a challenge, the soldiers opened fire, and one of the men was fatally wounded. The other two were arrested. The dead man had in his possession a loaded rifle with a bullet in the breech. Two other rifles were also covered.

The dead man was an active member of the Provisional IRA in the area and is thought to have been responsible for shooting attack on an RUC station in December 1985. He was held for two days on that occasion under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The police are currently investigating the incident and their preliminary assessment is that the soldiers were justified in taking the action that they did. In due course, as in every case of this nature, a file will be sent to the DPP for a direction. The police think that the terrorists were about to carry out an attack when they were encountered and that the soldiers' intervention almost certainly prevented a murder.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*You can
find*

J A DANIELL

ssd

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