

INCIDENT J305 140103 A105566

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STATION

SURNAME STEWART

FORNAMES COLVILLE

AGE DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

OCCUPATION POL DCS

TELEPHONE

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REPORT FROM COLVILLE STEWART

Form 51/1

HQ REF NO: S/DIVISIONAL REF NO: HG/2001/1206/20

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ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

'H' Division ARMAGH Sub-Division/Department

CID, SOUTH REGION Station/Branch 29 JANUARY 2001 Date

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION INTO POLICE ACTION IN PORTADOWN ON 27 APRIL 1997

TO: Assistant Chief Constable

'G' Department

On 18 January inst I briefed the Chief Constable on my concerns

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pertaining to what appears to be inaction on the part of certain officers at the scene of the assault on Robert Hamill on 27 April 1997.

The perceived inaction referred to centres around what was, or was not, done by various police officers following the assault, ie after Robert Hamill and others had been removed to hospital and the opposing factions had dispersed.

From my reading of available papers it seems that the scene was not properly preserved for examination by scientific officers and other specialist agencies; that no attempt was made or consideration given to re-arresting one Wayne Lunt who, it was felt, had to be released because it was physically impractical to sustain the arrest during the 'heat of the moment'; no attempt was made or consideration given to arresting others identified as having been involved in the confrontation/assault on Hamill and others; no attempt was made or consideration given to seizing for forensic examination clothing, footwear, etc from participants in the confrontation/assaults; no attempt was made or thought given to seizing bottles, or other items which may have been involved in the confrontation/assaults, and which may have revealed important evidence and a proper debriefing of police officers on the ground had not taken place immediately after the event or as soon as practical thereafter. I believe that had basic steps along the lines suggested above taken by the duty Inspector or those under his command the investigation of Robert Hamill's murder and the assault on others, including police officers would

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have been made easier.

It seems to me that this matter, albeit beatedly, should be thoroughly investigated, by an officer of suitable rank from 'G' Department, and I recommend accordingly.

REGIONAL HEAD

CID SOUTH REGION

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