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30 JUN 2006

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF FATHER SEAN DOOLEY

DATED THIS 28 DAY OF June 2006

1. I, FATHER SEAN DOOLEY, of an address known to the Robert Hamill Inquiry, declare that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence at the Inquiry I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
2. Between September 1992 and September 2000, I was attached to the Parish of Drumcree in Portadown.
3. Portadown had become a horrendous place to live around 1996 and 1997 because it practically became a stronghold for militant Protestantism and for Orange people in particular. The centre of the town; Market Street, High Street, around there is practically a no-go area for the Catholic people from the Garvaghy Road area. They would have been chased out and there would have been fights and violence.
4. On 11 May 1997, I received an anonymous telephone call about the Robert Hamill murder. I think the caller phoned earlier while I was out and asked for me by name. On this occasion, I answered the phone. To get a call like that around 9 o'clock in the evening was most unexpected. I wasn't sure of the identity of the person, whom I may have encountered in my duties, or if it was somebody just trying to cause trouble because Portadown was in such a situation at the time that this could have been somebody from a militant wing of the Nationalist community trying to stir up trouble maybe trying to get me to pass on information for them. I still don't know who made the call but I assumed it was a policeman because of the amount of information he had. He said that there were four officers in the Land Rover and that they were sleeping, they had been on duty since 4.00 pm and were on overtime but didn't want to be there.

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5. I wrote down what the person said on two small bits of green paper and then I sat down the next morning and wrote it out in longhand on pieces of A4 paper. I changed two small bits of it afterwards. I was given two names one I thought was Handy, when I picked it up on the phone and I discovered afterwards from watching the news that it was Hanvey, and the other was Stacey Bridgett's name, I had it spelt with one "T", but I discovered afterwards there were two "Ts" in it, so I changed that. Then, some short time afterwards I've written down in different coloured pen some of the questions that were being asked by the people in the area at the time for example the family. The questions I have written down were "Why were the police not doing something? Why were they there if they weren't going to help? Why did they allow this to happen? Why did they not intervene?" And then I have written down the number for the Independent Commission for Police Complaints for Northern Ireland. I was thinking about contacting them but I didn't. I have also written "How many girls were in the group of Protestants?" but I don't know why I wrote that.

6. I ran [REDACTED] and I got her over and I talked to her about it. Because she was from the SDLP, I thought she was somebody who could help me because I knew it was a political hot potato, I knew it was something very dangerous, and either I was being used or this was something that was quite helpful, but I wanted to talk to her about it. I gave copies of the notes to her and she said she would give them to the Department of Foreign Affairs, who would feed it back into the system. And then I forgot all about that, and never heard anything more about it for some time. Then I met with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on 31 October 1997. Mr [REDACTED] is the chair of the Garvaghy Road Residents' Association. Ms [REDACTED] had received an anonymous call asking seemingly chasing up progress of the information that had been passed to me previously. The caller had told Ms [REDACTED] that he had already spoken to me. I was still unsure. I didn't know whether it was someone from Garvaghy Road Residents Association, who had put up the information and were now coming to see why I hadn't done something about it, or whether it was a genuine phone call from the police and they were wondering why I hadn't done something about it.

7. There is now produced and shown to me marked "SD1" a copy of the notes I made.

SIGNED:



DATED: 28/6/06.