Message

Clue® Sentinel

Region : NORTHERN IRELAND OMBUDSMAN
Branch : Intelligence
Operation Name : IU 15 OMAGH BOMBING
Operation Code : ?? ?? N004 *(Current)*

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Classification(s) :

Record Status :

Date & Time : 22/11/2001 @ 15.46

Priority : None **Message No. :** 00118

Source : Dave Wood

Subject : Confidential Meeting Sam Kinkaid 20.11.01

Details :-

NOTE OF A MEETING WITH ACC SAM KINKAID HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2001 AT 4.30 PM (VENUE: NCB)
MEETING HELD IN CONFIDENCE
Sam told me that he was now responsible for the Omagh Bomb Investigation. As Chief Superintendent, Crime Support he had wrote Force policy, referring to HMI recommendations and reports stating that the Regional ACC should be responsible for murder and crime investigations. That came into force in April 2001. Despite that order the Senior Investigating Officer has been reporting directly to ACC Crime. He told me he submitted a report challenging that and as a result has now been given responsibility for investigation with the Senior Investigating Officer reporting to him (copies of report and policy given to me).
Sam said McVicker was a good and tenacious detective in his view. There is now friction between the Senior Investigating Officer and McVicker, caused by the Review.
REVIEW
Sam said the review report is what you would have expected from McVicker, thorough and detailed. He said it was conducted in a secret way and thus not discussed with the Senior Investigating Officer and HOLMES staff as it was done. This meant that some of the recommendations made had already been dealt with before the report was published.
He conceded that this was not many of the recommendations.Agreed that the report should have been acted upon earlier. The recommendations are now being dealt with but will take at least a year to implement.
McVicker had been told by the Chief Constable that he would be the Senior Investigating Officer. Sam challenged that (report given) in September as he believed McVicker would retire in January and thus not see it through and it would not normally be the Reviewing Officer implementing his own review. This was agreed by the Chief Constable.

The Senior Investigating Officer did not agree that other bombings should be linked. He had submitted a report (copy given) saying so. Sam did not agree with everything in the report but an OIOC has not been appointed.
INVESTIGATION
Agreed resourcing has been appalling given the public commitment by the Chief Constable. He described it as indefensible.
There has been no family liaison - the Chief Constable has taken it upon himself to do that role. No documentation in MIR - nobody knows what the Chief Constable has said or not said to the families. This has caused problems.

The role of Anderson was questionable. Sam did not rate him as a good detective. He was a self-publicist. His role was very unclear.
Sam felt that if McArthur was 'given his lead' at the start the bombers would be charged and convicted by now.
He accepts mistakes have been made. He finds it unbelievable that Blair is not a firm suspect- he says he is a suspect now but accepts that no enquiries had been made regarding him. He also accepts that the 04 August anonymous information should not have been ignored. Suggested that Ray White had hardly ever been to MIR.
SPECIAL BRANCH
Sam hopes that we can influence change in Special Branch. He said that they do an excellent job in preventing terrorism but are not interested once a terrorist incident has occurred. They do not pass intelligence to the Senior Investigating Officer.
On the Rosemary Nelson murder they refused to provide intelligence even though Sam Kinkaid, as Senior Investigating Officer, created actions and gave them to [Name] of Special Branch to do. The critical information was refused.
Colin Port later got the information. Special Branch were happier to give it to

and Special Branch insisted that no Royal Ulster Constabulary officers were in it. They are particularly resistant to local officers having the information.
When I suggested an intelligence cell should be formed regarding Omagh, with an OIOC, to properly consider linkage, he said that Special Branch probably would not allow an intelligence cell.
Sam saw the role of Special Branch and their refusal to supply intelligence as a problem. He had now demanded all intelligence regarding Omagh. He knows that the Chief Constable and others will think badly of him and see that as 'causing trouble'. I suggested that he ask the Chief Constable to give us permission to release what we have found and we will do so at an appropriate stage when we have analysed it all.
Officers had to check with Special Branch before making arrests. He said this was incase there was technical in a house etc. which an arrest or search could compromise.
He saw Special Branch as arrogant generally and said there would be considerable support in the Police Service of Northern Ireland for changes to it.
He confirmed that Special Branch are not detectives and not trained as such. Ray White is a Special Branch officer and has not been a detective. The Chief Constable will only ever have an ex-Special Branch officer as ACC Crime.
OTHERISSUES
Scout cars are always clear- no guns in them.
He felt criticisms will be met with fierce resistance by the Chief Constable and Ray White.

Notes :-

OD231

Review after : **on** / /

This record has no Reports/Reviews and no Risk Assessments

Record Updates :-

(22/11/2001 @ 15:50 - tony)