

1

METROPOLITAN POLICE

26

Special Report

Noted

9/3/70

SPECIAL BRANCH

2

9/2/70

4th day of December, 1969.

SUBJECT

Information re plot to obtain firearms.

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

Reference to Papers

346/69/32 UG
348/69/1P200
SB 2/12/69

Privacy

2. Privacy who is a member of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign, approached Gery LAWLESS about three weeks ago and told him that he had an idea for obtaining a large consignment of firearms. He asked LAWLESS to put his plan (as set out below) to I.R.A. leaders in the United Kingdom. To date, LAWLESS, when asked by Privacy what the I.R.A. attitude to his scheme had been, has given evasive answers. Privacy alleges that LAWLESS has failed to put the plan to the I.R.A. for two reasons, viz.

(a) that if the plan succeeded police activities in checking for stolen firearms might interfere with the present supply of firearms coming in from Holland.

(b) LAWLESS is still waiting for instructions from Military Intelligence in Dublin. Privacy believes LAWLESS is in touch with the Military Intelligence Service of the Irish Republic).

3. According to Privacy the Irish Republican Government has set up a camp outside Dundalk where soldiers seconded from the Irish Army are instructing specially vetted persons in the use of firearms. He alleges that the Irish Government has provided the I.R.A. with 600 firearms for use in the anticipated forthcoming struggle in Northern Ireland.

4. Privacy claims that the two men at present in jail for the attempted theft of firearms in east London (Privacy and Privacy) were sent from Cork by the I.R.A. for the specific job of stealing firearms. Privacy says that these two men know the I.R.A. contact for the London area and as LAWLESS has apparently taken no action to date, Privacy has written a letter to the two men in prison offering them legal advice, and asking them to get him a visitor's pass as he wishes to speak with them; he claims that they have a mutual friend, a

c 8612

Privacy

who is now in Canada. If **Privacy** succeeds in visiting the two in prison he hopes to learn how to be put in touch with the I.R.A. 'contact men'. If he fails to get in touch with the I.R.A. **Privacy** is talking of getting a few 'trusted friends' together to do the job himself.

5. **Privacy** is a keen photographer and claims that earlier this year in connection with a photographic assignment he had occasion to visit a warehouse in London belonging to a firm which specialises in supplying film companies, etc., with firearms for use in films. **Privacy** says that there are all types of modern automatic weapons in the warehouse, including bazookas and anti-tank guns. He alleges that he was told that some of these weapons are useable and others which have been rendered 'safe', can easily be converted by any competent handy-man. He further stated that the warehouse was guarded only at week-ends by a Securicor man and a dog and it had no burglar alarm system. **Privacy** said that three lorries would be needed to empty the warehouse, that the loading bay in the warehouse would only take one lorry at a time and that a furniture van would not fit in the bay.

6. At a subsequent meeting **Privacy** told the informant that the warehouse referred to was Bapty and Co. Ltd., Military, Theatrical Properties, 9, Macklin Street, W.C.2."

7. Contact is being maintained with the informant and any further information coming to hand will be submitted.

Privacy

Privacy

born **Privacy** a free-lance photographer/journalist, previously came to the notice of this Branch in May, 1969, when he volunteered information concerning persons whom he alleged had been responsible for acts of sabotage committed in Northern Ireland.

It was the opinion of the interviewing officer that **Privacy** had difficulty in distinguishing between fact and fiction and that his motives for giving information to police were questionable.

Privacy has also come to the notice of Special Branch in connection with his participation in meetings and demonstrations of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign.

Special Branch references to the persons mentioned are contained in an appendix to this report.

3

HN68

Constable

Submitted:

Hammans
Chief Inspector

4

TN0039

L CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT



APPENDIX to Special Branch report dated 28th November, 1969, concerning **Privacy** and a plot to obtain firearms.

Privacy

Mentions

Gery LAWLESS

335/57/430A

Privacy

Privacy



Unable to identify

Bapty & Co.

Mentioned on 350/54/1-118A in connection with the theft of one of their rifles on loan for a play in 1962.

Irish Civil Rights

Solidarity Campaign.

400/69/272

