

S.B. No. 1 (Films)

METROPOLITAN POLICE S.D.S.

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

Xth day of July 19 76

SUBJECT

AWA

Reference to Papers

100/76/20

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

2. Attached are copies of a special supplement of Anarchist Worker and a leaflet distributed by member of the Anarchist Workers Association on Saturday 24 July at the picket held outside the Irish Embassy. The object of these was to further the campaign against the proposed execution of Noel and Marie MURRAY in Ireland."

Chief Inspector

*Paul*  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

TO [redacted]  
4 AUG 1976  
PA IN

BOX 500

# BACKGROUND TO THE HANGING

The hypocrisy and underlying fascism beneath the mask of religious democracy that constitutes the Irish State is beyond belief. For years now it has maintained a facing-both-ways relationship with the IRA. It imprisons and proscribes it on the one hand, it cynically exploits it on the other.

It maintains excellent relations with London — despite the fact that the Special Branch of both countries have a well organised espionage system on each other and on subjects of each other's countries. But it knows the people have an ambivalent attitude towards the IRA which they confuse with the old IRA of which the modern outfit retains the same name. They have some sympathy for it so long as it stays in the North. But they don't particularly want it in the South, nor do they want economic division from England.

The IRA itself is well aware of this. That is why, as in the kidnapping of Dr Herrema, it dissociates itself from a dissident group — "dissident" in that it is out on a limb by becoming liable to alien people only caring about persuading the Dutch industrialist to stray on and exploit them.

Now, whenever there is an IRA explosion in England, the Provisional IRA no longer rushes to claim responsibility. The effect is the same in any case. They build up a cumulative effect which suggests that the IRA is "doing something" even if the aim has now become totally obscure, since it is evident that the last thing wanted by Catholic Nationalism is a withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland. But the impression of revolutionary activity is essential to their stock-in-trade. It is the only growth industry left in Ulster.

It is for this reason that the Irish lobby always suggests — in the teeth of all reasoning — that such exploits are organised by the London government itself — by the Special Branch — by the CIA or by "UDA infiltrators", a fanciful interpretation which enables the best of both worlds, causing the atmosphere of terror which shows the IRA is still "about" yet avoiding upsetting its liberal supporters.

Sometimes there is the added twist of the knife given by politically illiterate British journalists (unaware that they are covering up for the IRA) or Catholic Bishops (fully and artfully aware of the fact) to speak of *anarchists* in this connection... always "it might be anarchists," as if any murder would do for an anarchist — nothing not borne out by one single instance.

This is what lies behind the recent police terror in the Republic — and it has nothing to do with the nationalist struggle. The Dublin government has launched a vicious anti-anarchist campaign. It is taking action against the anarchists to convince the British Government it is serious when it says it will take action against the IRA.

The usual course for revolutionaries over the years in Ireland has been to emigrate. But some have stayed to make the course. Now they face the full rigours of the anti-Terrorism law — two men and a woman are facing the death penalty.

This is how they are going to make themselves "credible" to the British Government, while at the same time appeasing those in the north who want union with the Republic by not taking action against the IRA!

Already now, some time ago, as readers will be aware, three anarchists have been in the Curragh military prison for some time. Desmond Keane, Columba Longmore and Robert Cullen were sentenced to five, four and seven years respectively.

Noel Murray jumped his bail in the case and his wife Marie McPhillips got a two year suspended sentence.

They were accused of actions against the Spanish Embassy among other things. But meanwhile there has been building up a

long expected repression against libertarian supporters and sympathisers. On September 11 this year a policeman was shot dead after a bank raid in North Dublin in which £7,000 was taken. After running around in circles, the police turned to the "spectre of Anarchism" and, on the morning of September 23, raided the addresses of known anarchists throughout Dublin.

But the Garai — who have demonstrated their cowardice in the Herrema affair as well as their inhumanity (for what could have been simpler than to promise anything — they had no need to fulfill the terms — they preferred to save their faces as well as their skins) acted true to type. The raids were not only directed against known anarchists, but also on the relations and friends of those Anarchists in prison. The vindictiveness of this action can be seen by the arrest of mother, brother and sister of one of the Curragh prisoners. They were interrogated for hours. This is in "The Republic".

One comrade who had looked after the welfare of prisoners was taken to Raheny police station where he was viciously beaten to such an extent that he is receiving hospital treatment. Another comrade had several ribs broken. Why? They hoped that the prisoners would "confess" to knowing who was responsible.

The Evening Herald ran headlines that the policeman had been shot by anarchists. Yet at this stage the police did not know the identity of the person — only, it seems, his political convictions. It then went on to connect the imprisoned comrades with them — thus using the standard of guilt by association. A reward of £20,000 was offered for information.

Guilt by association could only mean Noel Murray and there were plenty to swear it was him at the price offered. Over the past eight months Noel and Marie became a thorn in the side of the establishment and the police have gone to great lengths to inculpate both of them as a sort of libertarian Bonnie and Clyde.

On October 9 Noel and Marie returned home from a stroll and were met by a policeman holding a machine-gun at them and who roared YOU'RE DEAD MURRAY! Then they realised the house was surrounded by forty armed police.

After they were arrested, the police went round to arrest Ronan Stenson — who had been held and released. His activity? He is a long standing activist for prisoners' rights and a member of the Prisoners' Rights Organisation, who has become a great embarrassment to the government for his persistent exposure of prison conditions. It seems to be more of a coincidence that two days before his arrest his picture appeared in a national daily (the Irish Times) handing a PRO leaflet to Prime Minister Cosgrave.

The three were taken to different police stations and viciously beaten up for thirty hours. Then they were forced to sign statements which had been dictated to them. Their solicitors demanded independent medical examinations, which were refused. Now all three face charges which carry the death sentence.

*The most urgent need exists to demonstrate solidarity with Noel, Marie and Ronan, and defend them from the worst excesses of the State terrorists in Dublin. We ask for full support for representations to be made to the Irish Government. Especially from the pro-Republican lobby which has in this instance a chance to put its own house in order.*

Noel and Marie Murray after a six-week trial, were sentenced to hang. The three-man court, with no jury, a political appointment subservient to the Government, refused leave to appeal. But no hangman in the Irish Republic will do the job. A MERCENARY HANGMAN IS TO BE IMPORTED. If, as is likely, he is brought over from England, bitterness will be caused in a double murder in which no interest is served but the return of the Fine Gael-Labour Party Coalition — and no one can know where this bitterness will lead.