

McCabe trial begins in Special Criminal Court

THE trials of five men charged in connection with the murder of Limerick detective, Jerry McCabe, in Adare in 1996 began in the Special Criminal Court on Monday. Four of the accused are charged with capital murder while the fifth is charged with conspiracy to rob and unlawful possession of ammunition on the day before the detective was shot during an abortive robbery in Adare. On the first day of the trial which is expected to last six months, the men pleaded not guilty to the charges. If convicted, the four charged with capital murder will face a mandatory 40 year prison sentence.

The four accused of murdering Det Gda McCabe, who was married with five children and was aged 52, are Pearse McCaley (34) from Strabane, County Tyrone and three

men from Limerick. They are Jeremiah Sheehy (36) of Abbey Park, Rathkeale, Michael O'Neill (46) of Lisheen Park, Patrickswell and Kevin Walsh (42) also of Lisheen Park. The fifth man who faces ammunition charges is another Limerick man, John Quinn (30) of Faha in Patrickswell.

Det Gda McCabe's partner, Det Gda Ben O'Sullivan, was seriously injured in the course of the robbery which happened as they were escorting a post office van on its morning run through the county on the morning of Friday, June 7, 1996. Their unmarked police car was rammed by a Pajero jeep from behind as they stopped outside the post office in Adare and gunmen brandishing AK47 assault rifles opened fire on the blue Mondeo, killing Det Gda McCabe instant-



If convicted, the four men charged with the capital murder of Det Gda Jerry McCabe almost three years ago, will face mandatory life sentences.

ly and seriously wounding Det Gda O'Sullivan. Investigators later found 14 spent shells at the scene, the bullets from which had been pumped into the police car before either garda had time to draw his weapon, according to the prosecution.

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