



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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TO HQ FROM BELFAST

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LOYALIST STRIKE NEXT MONDAY

FOR O TUATHAIL FROM LILLIS  
PLEASE COPY SECRETARY *COPIED*

WE ARE GATHERING THE FOLLOWING HERE ABOUT THE STRIKE PLANNED FOR MONDAY. THEY BELIEVE THAT A MAJORITY OF THE WORK FORCE IN BALLYLUMFORD POWER STATION FAVOUR A SHUT DOWN OF THE PLANT. IN THE EVENT THAT THE WORKFORCE STAY OUT ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION WILL DEPEND ON MIDDLE MANAGEMENT. IF THE LATTER SUCCEED IN GETTING TO WORK THEY COULD KEEP PRODUCTION GOING FOR 12 HOURS. THEY BELIEVE THEY WILL CHOOSE NOT TO KEEP THE PLANT GOING. THEY EXPECT THAT THE SHIFT WHICH TAKES OVER AT 22.00 HOURS ON SUNDAY NIGHT COULD SHUT DOWN THE PLANT AND THAT IT WILL BE KEPT SHUT DOWN UNTIL ABOUT LUNCH TIME ON MONDAY, THEREBY ENABLING THE RESTORATION OF SUPPLIES SOMETIME MONDAY EVENING.

THOSE WHO WILL BE AFFECTED ARE DOMESTIC, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL USERS. HOSPITALS, POLICE STATIONS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS HAVE THEIR OWN ELECTRICITY GENERATORS, WHICH ARE OIL FIRED. THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM, WHICH HAS ITS OWN SEPARATE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, SHOULD NOT BE EFFECTED. HOWEVER TELEPHONE SWITCHGEAR WHICH CONTROLS EXTENSIONS DEPENDS ON THE ORDINARY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY. ACCORDINGLY CONTACT WITH THE SECRETARIAT ON MONDAY SHOULD BE ON THE DIRECT TELEPHONE LINES AND NOT ON THE GENERAL LINE BECAUSE THE EXTENSIONS WILL PROBABLY BE UNUSABLE. (YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM OTHERS ACCORDINGLY).

THEY BELIEVE THAT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND LOYALISTS IS INEVITABLE, AND THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE STRIKE TAKES PLACE IS A WEAK ONE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE UNIONISTS, BECAUSE OF THE CLEAR SPLIT BETWEEN MODERATE AND MILITANT UNIONISTS.

WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE ARMY WILL BE DEPLOYED IN LARGE NUMBERS ON MONDAY. THEIR PRIMARY TASK WILL BE ON SECURITY DUTIES, THEREBY RELEASING AS MANY POLICE AS POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH THE POPULATION,

ROAD BLOCKS, ETC. THEY THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT THE ARMY WILL BECOME INVOLVED IN CONFRONTATION WITH THE STRIKERS.

THE AUTHORITIES HAVE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THE ARMY TO DEAL WITH AN EXTENDED SHUT DOWN OF BALLYLUMFORD BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THEY SHOULD PUT THEM INTO ACTION FOR A TWELVE HOUR STOPPAGE. THEIR EXPERIENCE IN 1974 AND 1977 PROVED THE HARD LINE LOYALIST SYMPATHIES OF THE OIL TANKER DRIVERS. IN THE EVENT OF A LENGTHY STOPPAGE THE AUTHORITIES WOULD SEEK TO TAKE OVER THE DELIVERY OF OIL AND PETROL SUPPLIES SO AS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF SUPPLIES FOR GENERATORS.

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