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Reference Code:	2017/10/47
Creation Dates:	7 April 1987
Extent and medium:	5 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
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A-1 *Julian & Sandra 7/4*
Interview with Tom King

Journalists were speaking to Northern Secretary, Tom King, about the situation. He was first asked if he saw any sense in the scenes at the Marley home.

Mr. King: Well, it's obviously made clear by the RUC that paramilitary displays are not acceptable. The police have made quite clear their position and obviously it is a matter for them.

Interviewer: Mr. King, is there not a possibility, indeed, that support has been shored up for Sinn Fein, the people that you are trying to defeat in this situation, given what is happening now in North Belfast with the coffin going in and out of the house two or three times?

Mr. King: I think it's absolutely clear that paramilitary displays are not acceptable. I think that there is no question also, and I note the very serious criticisms by the Catholic Church of the behaviour at the funeral at Londonderry in this respect and that they must understand that this is not acceptable at a funeral.

Interviewer: Some reasonable people might suggest that even though a paramilitary display is not acceptable at a funeral, the presence of the police would appear to be very heavy handed.

Mr. King:

Well I think the police have made quite clear the position that paramilitary displays will not be accepted at funerals. The answer to that and the solution to the problem of police presence therefore lies very clearly and we already have one instance where quite clearly, in the case of a Londonderry funeral, the wishes of the family themselves were not respected by people who sought to exploit a death, any death is tragic in that respect, and family grief, to exploit it for their political purposes and that is not acceptable.

Interviewer:

Would you not accept the criticism that perhaps there has been a very heavy handed attitude by the police to this funeral in that the funeral hasn't in fact taken place yet and internationally it must be providing very great scope for the Provisional IRA to say "this is how the British treat us: they won't allow us to bury our dead", tactically is it not a mistake?

Mr. King:

You know the problems that the RUC face in these very difficult matters. You know perfectly well where the solution lies: that if we could have responsible behaviour in matters of this kind, then these problems would not arise in this way. The police are given a very difficult problem. The law needs to be observed, and the Chief Constable has made that position quite clear and he has my full support.

Interviewer:

Given what has happened, aren't they specifically pinned in there until somebody breaks?

Mr. King:

No, the position is quite clear. The police have made the position quite clear, everybody knows the law and that is how the position stands.

Interviewer:

But has the law been broken in the present instance given the funeral situation?

Mr. King:

The answer which is quite clear is that the police need to be satisfied that there will not be any paramilitary display and made that quite clear and I hope that a sensible solution can be reached and I hope that families will understand the situation and that that cannot be tolerated.

Interview with Fr. Denis Faul

Interviewer:

Joining me now on phone from Dungannon is Fr. Denis Faul. It sounds, Father, like a very serious stalemate, there is still no sign of the funeral going ahead. What can be done to break this deadlock?

Fr. Faul:

Well Mr. King's statement there was dishonest in two respects. First of all, he only quoted part of what the Bishop of Derry said. The Bishop of Derry, like myself and the rest of the clergy, deplore paramilitary displays at funerals and don't want them in any shape or form, but also the Bishop of

Derry in a statement deplored the over-numerous RUC presence and the way in which they intruded upon the funeral and the church grounds and so on with their weapons. That would be the position I think. He also said that arrangements made by the relatives were broken by the Provos. But I could quote an example, the McCluskey funeral in Armagh recently, where arrangements made between the clergy and the RUC were broken by the RUC and when they had promised to stand well back and come in small numbers, they crowded in with vast numbers of men on foot and vast numbers of jeeps and Landrovers. So his statement there is dishonest and I am very disappointed to hear that. What is happening here is this. Briefly, while we don't want the Provos to make any propaganda out of these funerals and want them to keep well back, I knew the late Mr. Marley and knew his wife and I have every sympathy with her and with the family, but what the RUC have been doing since 1984, since the Price funeral here in East Tyrone and the Craven funeral in Belfast, their actions ^{are} ~~have~~ simply ~~been~~ driving the people into the arms of the Provos. I know nothing since the Hunger Strike that is having the same emotional effect and driving the Catholic people ^{who} ~~to~~, basically, detest the Provos and also they are moving towards accepting the RUC as a reasonably impartial force in non-political matters, but they are now being driven right back into the hands of the Provos by the RUC action. At funerals, as you know, nerves are raw, emotions are very raw. Various news editorials say the police could stand back a

reasonable distance and if the law was broken, but the law hasn't been broken until something happens, then they could move in. I think that the Church's action in Derry slapped down the Provos far more effectively than the police could have done. So I think we should leave it to the Church to ensure that in the church grounds, at least in the graveyard, things will be done in a dignified way. The police can be there but they must also behave themselves and also, let me make this point, the impression has been driven into the Catholic consciences^{of the} of young and not so young that the RUC in this instance are acting at the request of hysterical loyalist politicians, like Paisley and McCrea and those kind of people, and the RUC are coming out now, as they did in 1968, as the tool of extreme loyalism and that is very bad for law and order and very bad for community relations and it is very bad to see the young people once again being roused up and being filled with emotion against the law and against the police, as had happened during the Hunger Strike.