



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/50/113

Creator(s): Department of Foreign Affairs

Accession Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

*cc PST, P33 Sec 6 Lliggi
Gunderson
Security Sector*

Secure Fax: 731

12 July 1996

No of pages including this one: 2

**To: HQ
For: C. O'Floinn**

**From: Belfast
From: B. Nolan**

*BOX
Mems. Feahy Ball
Donlon*

Situation Report (4pm)

*Mr 2.2
cc (Ormeau July 12)
cc S.1.*

- 1. I have been trying to obtain further information on today's events/incidents from the other side. As this is a holiday, with duty officer system in operation, it is very difficult to get anything other than verbal summaries of main events. I have raised in particular the Ormeau Road situation, the events at Altnagelvin Hospital and the situation in Newry.

Ormeau Road

- 2. Contacts have told me that security screen in Lower Ormeau has been scaled down and that remaining screen seems to indicate that return parade will approach Ormeau Bridge via Agincourt Avenue and Collingwood Road. This will bring parade to the very end of the Lower Ormeau, along the Embankment before turning right to cross the Bridge and proceed to the Upper Ormeau Road.
- 3. I requested the other side (about 1pm) to ask police why the return parade cannot proceed along the Ormeau Embankment, thereby avoiding the Bridge completely, in view of damage caused by yesterday's and today's decisions. I understand that the NIO was told firmly by police that this was an operational matter and "none of the NIO's business".

Derry

- 4. I have been informed that the events at Altnagelvin Hospital resulted from a fracas, which occurred in the casualty ward when injured rioters and injured policemen found themselves side by side awaiting treatment. Police reinforcements were called in including a police dog. Batons were used and some reports are suggesting that injured persons have been taken to hospital in Letterkenny and Sligo.

According to the Belfast Telegraph, a total of 49 people including 11 policemen were treated in Altnagelvin for injuries. RUC say that over 900 petrol bombs were thrown at police in the city centre. Among those injured is a 19 year old, who is in intensive care with serious head injuries, having been hit by a plastic bullet.

Newry

5. Information from NIO is as follows: about 200 protestors attempted to block Orange parade on Camlough Road this morning. The police moved in to disperse the protestors, who numbered 700 according to the Belfast Telegraph. Petrol bombs were thrown at police, who replied with 6 rounds of PRB's. No reports of injuries. NIO say Newry is quiet at present.

RUC gunfire injuries

6. As reported 3 policemen were injured in gunfire during rioting in North Belfast last night. There were two separate incidents. First at 1.40am, 2 officers were wounded when they came under fire during rioting in Ardoyne. Second incident about 30 minutes later in Duncairn Gardens, a bullet penetrated door of police landrover causing arm injury to 1 occupant. During the night there were also petrol bomb attacks on police in Bromton Park, Ardoyne Road, Alliance Avenue and in Crumlin Old Park areas.

Other serious injuries

7. A man was knocked down by a police landrover in Ogle Street, Armagh City, during rioting there last night. He was taken to hospital in Craigavon and later transferred to Royal Victoria Belfast. He is reported to be serious but stable after surgery.

A 36 year old man is in intensive care with serious facial burns after his van was petrol bombed at Colin Walk, Polglass.

Near Lurgan a 72 year old man was rescued by police after his house at Sugar Island Road was petrol bombed at 1am. He was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation.

Secure Fax: 729

12 July 1996

To: HQ
For: C. O'FlóinnFrom: Belfast
From: B. Nolan

No of pages including this one: 1

Subject: Lower Ormeau Road, 10am 12 July 1996

1. As you are aware, the Orange parade moved down the Lower Ormeau Road this morning just after 9am.
2. Some time before 9am, a small group of residents including Gerard Rice, attempted to stage a protest. After a few minutes, they were removed by the police. All other residents of the area were kept behind police lines and barriers. My present information is that there were no incidents during the march through Lower Ormeau.
3. As reported, the Secretariat was not informed of the police decision until after the parade had taken place. We were told late last evening that a police decision would be taken at 7am this morning.
4. At 7am, we were told to expect a decision at 8.55 or thereabouts. At 9am I called the NIO, to be told by the duty officer that he was not aware of the police decision and that he would let me know as soon as he had the information.
5. I telephoned the NIO again at 9.30am and was informed by the duty officer that he remained "in the dark", as he put it, about what was happening.
7. Just after 9.30am I had a call from a contact in Lower Ormeau to say that the parade had passed down shortly after 9am.
8. I have now protested to the NIO about the failure to inform us beforehand as they had promised repeatedly they would do since yesterday afternoon. I have also passed on the other two points you mentioned.