

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2007/116/759
Creation Date(s):	2 May 1977
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Access Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

E-A DUBLIN
F-A1 LDN
SERIAL NO 838

IMMEDIATE

TO HQ FROM LONDON
FOR ANGLO-IRISH FROM GALLAGHER

Taseagh
See - particularly Xp2.
to of/known appears wished
to speak to you on this
matter.

cc PSA
RSS
Mr. Doolan
Mr. Neilly (Dept/T)
Mr. & Sullivan
Mr. Swift
Angela Linn

FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON STRIKE BEING MADE IN HOUSE SHORTLY
BY SEC OF STATE (REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY WILL FOLLOW LATER
FROM THOMPSON).

I WILL, WITH PERMISSION, MAKE A STATEMENT.
A BODY CALLING ~~IT~~ ITSELF THE UNITED ULSTER ACTION COUNCIL SEEKS
TO BRING NORTHERN IRELAND TO A STANDSTILL BY CALLING FOR A
STOPPAGE OF WORK FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT. MOST OF THE MILITANT
LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ORGANISATIONS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE
COUNCIL WHOSE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES THE ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL,
THE NEWLY FORMED UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY AND THE DEMOCRATIC
UNIONIST PARTY LED BY THE HON MEMBER FOR ANTRIM NORTH. THE
ACTION COUNCIL ARE ASKING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
MAJORITY REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, WHICH
WAS REJECTED BY THIS HOUSE A YEAR AGO. THEY ARE SEEKING
CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND WITH PARLIAMENT. THEY
ARE ALSO ASKING FOR A DIFFERENT SECURITY POLICY.

TE

THE PROPOSED ACTION WOULD BE ECONOMICALLY DISASTROUS FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND. AT A TIME WHEN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN GIVING SPECIAL
ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE PROVINCE AND MUCH HAS BEEN
DONE TO HELP RESTORE CONFIDENCE. SUCH CONFIDENCE IS, OF
COURSE, ESSENTIAL IF MUCH NEEDED FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS TO COME
TO NORTHERN IRELAND. ONLY LAST WEEK I WAS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE
NEW ORDERS WORTH £60M - ~~£70M~~ £70M FOR HARLAND AND WOLFF. THE
DISRUPTION OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND ECONOMY IS ALSO AN AIM OF
THE PROVISIONAL IRA.

McKenna
1/5

4/5
1. in my Carthy.
To see, in
→ Blair
For 5/19/84
under appropriate
dates
(2/5 and 26/4)
hook
3.8-77.

PAGE 2.

I AM NOT IN THE LEAST COMPLACENT ABOUT THE PRESENT SECURITY SITUATION. I CAN WELL APPRECIATE THE FEELINGS OF FRUSTRATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND THAT THE COMMUNITY THERE HAS HAD TO SUFFER SO MUCH FOR SO LONG. BUT EQUALLY I AM CONVINCED THAT WHAT THE UNITED ULSTER ACTION COUNCIL IS DOING AND PROPOSES TO DO IS NOT THE WAY TO IMPROVE MATTERS. A STOPPAGE WOULD DISTRACT THE SECURITY FORCES FROM THEIR EFFORTS AGAINST PIRA, WHO HAVE RECENTLY SUFFERED REVERSES.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE COERCED. THEY WILL HELP THE COMMUNITY TO RESIST BULLYING TACTICS. THE GOVERNMENT ARE SUPPORTED IN THIS BY ALL THE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND, AND BY THE TRADE UNION AND EMPLOYERS ORGANISATIONS, ALL OF WHOM HAVE CONDEMNED THE PROPOSED ~~ST~~A STOPPAGE.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL DEAL FIRMLY WITH ANY DISRUPTIVE ACTION THAT MAY BE TAKEN AND WILL GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO ALL EFFORTS TO KEEP INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN OPERATION. THERE MAY BE ATTEMPTS BY INTIMIDATION TO PREVENT PEOPLE GETTING TO WORK. THIS ACTIVITY IS CLEARLY ILLEGAL AND A MATTER FOR THE POLICE. THE CHIEF CONSTABLE HAS INFORMED ME THAT THE RUC WILL ACT AGAINST THIS AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY INVOKING SUPPORT FROM THE ARMY IF NECESSARY. THE GOC HAS CALLED UP ALL THE ULSTER DEFENCE REGIMENT FOR FULL-TIME SERVICE IN ORDER TO ASSIST REGULAR ~~TR~~ TROOPS. THE SPEARHEAD BATTALION AND FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS HAVE ARRIVED IN THE PROVINCE. IF THERE IS DISRUPTION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, THE GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MITIGATE THE HARDSHIP AND INCONVENIENCE. AS A LAST RESORT SPECIALIST SERVICEMEN ARE AVAILABLE TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM SERVICES ESSENTIAL TO THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY AND OF INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS.

I HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT COMMONSENSE WILL PREVAIL AND THAT A SMALL SECTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND WILL NOT TRY TO INFLICT THIS PAIN AND DISTRESS UPON THEMSELVES AND THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS. THE HOUSE WILL, I KNOW, ~~AS~~ JOIN ME AND THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN CONDEMNING THOSE WHO SEEK TO FOMENT THE PROPOSED DISRUPTION.

END

DAG 2/5/77 15.46

E-A DUBLIN
F-A1 LDN