



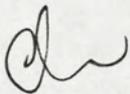
# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

<b>Reference Code:</b>	2016/52/36
<b>Creation Dates:</b>	16 July 1986
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	3 pages
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
<b>Accession Conditions:</b>	Open
<b>Copyright:</b>	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

King's Rd reply 3.30 pm

I have received messages from Mr. Barry expressing his concern about the events of recent days in Northern Ireland and his assessment of the impact on the nationalist community and in particular his criticism of certain operational decisions of the RUC. I have today issued a statement making clear that operational decisions on routing of parades are entirely a matter for the Chief Constable. I have also expressed my support for the way in which the RUC sought to deal even-handedly with both communities and to protect law abiding people from violence from whatever quarter it comes.

cc: Taisear  
Aunters  
Secretary  
in Nally  
A-1 = A-1 Sec + ✓  
Boa

  
16/7

1703M

pc for Mr O Iwanawac .

Rr.

## STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

There have been criticisms from both sides of the community about the ways in which the RUC have policed the recent parades.

May I therefore make clear that operational matters regarding marches are entirely the responsibility of the Chief Constable. I have full confidence in him in the difficult judgments that the RUC have had to make in these contentious matters. I would like to express my sympathy with those members of the RUC who have suffered injury in discharging their duty of protecting both sides of the community from the violence of extremists on either side. I would also record my appreciation of the very long hours of duty carried out by so many in the RUC and the security forces during the <sup>whole</sup> weekend of the 12th, and my respect for the way in which they sought to discharge their responsibilities in an even-handed way.

I confirm again that operational responsibility for the routes of marches is the sole responsibility of the Chief Constable and the RUC, and that I have no intention of seeking to interfere in any way with that position. That has been, and will continue to be, the position throughout the marching season, and anybody who is concerned about any particular event should follow the normal procedure and approach their local RUC officers.

There has been too much violence and injury in recent days, which is quite unacceptable in a responsible and civilized community. In the coming weeks I look to both communities to show respect and understanding for each others' traditions and stand together against these occasions being exploited by men of violence on either side.

Main points of Commons Debate

Gow asked what complaints had been received about the RUC from Mr. Barry and what response had been given. King referred Gow to his press statement issued shortly before the Commons question. He said he had had messages from Mr. Barry expressing his concern and his assessment of the impact on the nationalist community. Text of reply is attached. Gow asked King to make it doubly clear that Mr Barry had no operational role and asked him to remind Mr Barry of Art 9(b) - presumably a reference to no operational role for the Agreement. Were these complaints not a precursor of further complaints? King replied that despite tension, the violence was much less than it might have been because of wise and sensible police decisions. He regretted injuries to the RUC.

Powell asked if it was not clear that the Irish Government thinks it has a voice in internal affairs of the UK. King replied that the Irish Government had always made representations (Note: he did not refer to new conditions of Anglo-Irish Agreement). Amery criticised Scott's suggestion in the Daily Telegraph that integration would be contrary to the Agreement. King said the Government's policy was for devolution. Duffy said that if the marches had been properly routed and people properly protected there would be no need for Mr. Barry to make his complaints. King repeated support for RUC and promised protection. Biggs Davison asked if Mr. Barry's remarks were not evidence that Agreement was not working and should be left to wither. Eldon Griffiths attacked Mr. Barry for daring to interfere in operational responsibility of the RUC. King was not drawn. Bell (for Labour) commended RUC but mentioned anger about attacks such as Rasharkin. King said every effort would be made to apprehend perpetrators.

cc *Tarrant* A-1  
*Went* A-1 *Post*  
*Secretary*  
*W. Kelly*