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NEWS REPORT FROM

A-I SECRETARIAT

12-14 July

Mr Humble
JWH
12.7.86

519629

Update to Earlier Report

Position at 3 p.m. - 12 July

cc Tawiseach
Tanuste
Minister
Minister for Justice
Attorney General
Secretary
Mr. Wally
Mr. Ward
Mr. Russell
A-I SECTION

Downtown Radio news carried the following reports:

1. John Hume has stated that "the decision in Portadown about the parades is a clear boost for the bully-boy and the cudgel carrier. It is also a clear breach by the Police Constable of the public undertaking given last week about these parades".

2. The Agreement has been attacked by platform speakers at all Orange demonstrations. Martin Smyth, speaking at Edenderry, said it was time the Security Forces were used against terrorism instead of, as he put it, using them to frustrate the democratic use of the ballot box.

3. 8 people appeared in Court after last night's disturbances.

(i) A Scotsman was given a conditional discharge for assaulting a Police Sgt.

(ii) A Belfastman was remanded, accused of intimidating a family in the Avis St., area; and

(iii) A 16 yr old youth was accused of having petrol bombs in the Antrim Road area.

4. Sinn Féin's Danny Morrisson recalled that the Government has told nationalists that they could "hold their heads high" because of the Agreement. He challenged the SDLP to say if that was still the case after this morning's Orange march in Portadown.

Updated Position up to 7.00 p.m. - 12 July

1. There were stone throwing incidents in Dungannon as an Orange Parade made its way along the Ballygawley Road. Nationalists and Loyalists were involved in the skirmishing and there were some arrests.

2. In reply to John Hume's statement today Martin Smthy has said that he regretted that the marches were not permitted to go through Obin St. because of people like John Hume demanding that their culture be no longer allowed expression in that area they were not allowed through. John Hume has come out again in his true colours against everything of their Orange and Protestant tradition.

3. Sir John Hermon defended his decision to allow Orangemen march through the Garavaghy area of Portadown this morning and dismissed "as rubbish" John Hume's statement that the RUC had given in to the bully-boys and cudgel carriers.

4. There were further bottle and stone throwing incidents in Limavady this afternoon mainly in the Irish Green St., area. This was the scene of some of the fiercest fighting in the town over night.

5. A man (believed to be Protestant) who was abducted in the Ardoyne area at around 2 a.m. this morning has been found after a major search operation. It is understood that 3 men are being held in connection with the incident.

6. Mr. Brian Leonard who was shot in the Shankill area of Belfast last Thursday died in hospital this afternoon. Mr. Leonard, a Catholic from Fintona Co. Tyrone was working in the area at the time of the shooting. The Protestant Action Force has claimed responsibility.

7.00 p.m. Saturday 12th to 10.00 p.m. Sunday 13th

1. Trouble erupted in Portadown as Orange marchers returned to the town from Armagh. The town was packed with spectators and as the parade passed the entrance to the Tunnel area rioting broke out. In the incidents that followed a police landrover was overturned and one policeman dragged out and beaten with his own riot-stick. Police reinforcements were called and landrovers out alongside the marchers in an effort to quell the trouble. The overturned landrover was set on fire. The scenes left police and civilians bleeding on the ground. 9 RUC men and a number of civilians, including Alan Wright, were injured. Wright later claimed that he was rammed by a landrover. Two landrovers were overturned during the incidents.

2. Police revealed that the man abducted from a house in the Ardoyne area and later found in a house in Northwick Drive was an off-duty Territorial soldier.

3. Two senior RUC officers have been suspended from duty on the recommendation of Chief Constable Colin Sampson. The action was cleared with the Inspector of Constabulary in London as was the earlier removal of the two officers in question from operational duties which was one of the options advocated by Stalker. The names have been withheld for security reasons.

4. Four pensioners' bungalows were among six houses damaged during a sectarian clash at Greysteel near Derry. A bus carrying Orangemen back from Limavady was attacked by stone throwing youths. Over 150 Orangemen subsequently ran after the youths into a nearby housing estate. Windows in several houses were broken and a pensioner's car was damaged.

5. A police patrol was ambushed early this morning (13th) near Authnaclay. One officer was later treated in hospital for bullet wounds to the arms and legs. The patrol was fired on by a number of gunmen who lay waiting in hedges near the Rathaghy

House Pub. Police discovered a suspect package near the scene which was believed to be a bomb. Soldiers later cleared the package which turned out to contain a 150 lb. bomb.

6. In Co. Down a pensioner was treated in hospital for shock after windows in a house were smashed at Lisnamilligan on the Rathfriland to Hilltown Road. The incident happened when a gang of men, who had unsuccessfully tried to take down a Union Jack, went on the rampage.

7. In Derry windows were broken in the Fountain Estate and grove Place areas when rival groups clashed. Police were also attacked in the area.

8. On the Ormeau Road a flat was destroyed by fire when a petrol bomb was thrown through the window. A Catholic man who occupied the flat escaped unhurt. A derelict shop was also gutted in the blaze on the Newtownards Road.

9. Security forces in Portadown are preparing for a parade of about 1,400 members of the Royal Black Institution tomorrow. Meanwhile in the town some Ulster Club members have been distributing leaflets advising business men not to serve police in their shops.

10. Provisional figures released show that since the morning of the 11th until the early hours of the morning of the 13th, 127 people were arrested and 281 plastic baton rounds fired. Altogether 128 policemen and 66 civilians were injured, mostly in Portadown. Nearly 80 cases of intimidation were reported, 8 of which were from policemen and their families.

11. A group representing residences of Obin St and Garavagy Road is planning to stage a protest tomorrow morning, along the

Garavagy Road, against the RUC decision to reroute the Orange parade in the town on the 12th. They say that it will be a totally non-violent protest.

12. One of the three men being held at Castledreg detention centre in connection with the abduction in Ardoyne has been moved to the Musgrove Park Hospital for observation. Martin Meehan had complained of chest pains. The RUC say that he has made no complaint about his treatment in custody.

13. At Cappagh in Co. Tyrone 1,000 people have taken part in a Republican demonstration. Private cars were used to form a barricade to prevent police getting through. These were moved after negotiations and the parade passed off peacefully.

Morning News Summary,

14 July, 1986

Incidents

1. The village of Rathsharkin, about miles from Belfast was the scene of an organised sectarian attack on Catholic homes late last night. A crowd of up to 60 masked Loyalists carrying cudgels, pick-axe handles and axes assembled in a Gospel Hall in the village and marched to the Catholic Bainford Park. In one incident a door was broken down and a youth chased up the stairs. A 16 yr old youth was badly beaten up and 5 cars were damaged, as well as many houses, during the attack.

2. A man was shot in the head in the Legoneil area of Belfast in the early hours of the morning. The incident happened at Millview Walk. In a separate incident a man was hospitalised after being shot in the thigh in the Highfield Estate. His condition is said not to be serious.

3. In the Dumcairn Gardens area a group of around 30 youths threw stones and petrol bombs at police. Plastic bullets were fired by the police and the crowd dispersed after about half an hour. Later in the Old Park area (at Rosevale St.) five petrol bombs and two acid bombs were found by police. A suspect device was also found. The Army carried out a controlled explosion but the device did not contain explosives.

4. In Portadown Police fired several plastic bullets when they came under attack from a crowd of youths throwing petrol bombs in the Garavaghy Road area.

5. Harold McCusker has announced that a public inquiry will be held into the weekend disturbances in Portadown. The inquiry committee will be made up of Unionists, politicians and members of the Orange Order. It will be open to the media and it is hoped that the RUC will send a representative. The report will be forwarded to Martin Smyth who will make public the findings.

6. 200 people from the predominantly Wapping Lane area of Derry staged a sit down protest outside the Police Headquarters at Strand Road last night. Residents have alleged that the police showed no interest when they reported that their homes were attacked last night. They now intend to mount patrols of their own.

Interviews

7. Radio Ulster this morning carried separate interviews with Secretary of State Tom King and the Chief Constable Sir John Harmon.

(i) Mr. King said that he was pleased at the out come of the weekends demonstrations which was due to the overriding good sense of the public and the security forces. He felt that the RUC had acted in an even handed manner in Portadown. Nationalist feelings were strong and he understood that they should fight their corner. The RUC, he said, took the brunt of the action in trying to defend nationalists. It is a time to respect both traditions. Marchers should act in a non-violent and improvocative way. Commenting on the leaflets being distributed by the Ulster Clubs which carry the slogan "Serve the RUC and you won't serve me". Mr. king said that this action is quite deplorable. That some Loyalists should seek to stab the RUC in the back and deserved the contempt of the people of Northern Ireland.

(ii) Sir John said that the suspension of the two officers had only taken place this week. He had not wished, he said, to make the announcement on Saturday night but for the fact that he became

aware that some of the Sunday papers had the information. In April of last year Mr. Stalker had recommended either the suspension or removal of the two officers. In consultation with the Inspector of Constabulary Mr. Harmon decided that it was in the best interest to remove the officers from operational duty even though at that time he had not, he said, received the Stalker report. He will give Mr. Sampson his 100% support and cooperation towards the completion of his investigations.

Local Papers

1. The Newsletter this morning carries the headline "A Test of Nerves" which refers to today's parade in Portadown and to the fact that the Police are bracing themselves for another major test. It is expected that the marchers will make a token attempt to gain entry to Obin St.

In its "Morning View" article the paper says that while most Unionists deplore the and unjustified attacks on the RUC it is the refusal of the N.I.O. Minister to acknowledge that opposition to the Agreement is widespread which has created the bitterness and frustration which the men of violence have sought to exploit.

2. The Irish News leads with a report that Canada is to join with the United States in contributing to the International Fund.

The paper also reports that Nationalists in several 12th flashpoint areas have rejected claims that Orange marches had passed off peacefully.

In its "Leader" article the paper says that the announcement by the Chief Constable of the suspension of two senior R.V.C officers will have done something to remove the general suspicion of a cover-up. However, the circumstances and timing of the announcement rouse serious doubts whether the Chief Constable will allow the full truth to be told about the incidents which led to the inquiry.