



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Statement from RUC Headquarters

The following are the facts concerning yesterday's loyalist Day of Action:

1. There were 665 road blocks of various types (trees, telegraph poles, debris, vehicles, people) and of these 441 were cleared by the Police.
2. Apart from road blocks, there was 84 demonstrations.
3. 329 cases of damage to property (buildings, vehicles etc) were reported to the Police, and there were 237 reports of intimidation.
4. On a number of occasions, in Belfast and towns elsewhere, the Police intervened, sometimes forcibly, to prevent sectarian confrontation and to protect workers.
5. 47 police officers were injured in violence against the Police and Police under attack fired 65 plastic baton rounds. Police came under gunfire on four occasions in Belfast. In one instance 20 shots were fired and in another up to 15 shots.
6. 57 persons were arrested and 184 cases are being considered for prosecution. Investigations are continuing.
7. There were 43 complaints regarding Police action and 132 complaints alleging Police inactivity.

In a message to-day to all members of the Force, the Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon said: I wish to convey my thanks and appreciation to all members of the Force for their dedicated effort prior to and during Monday's loyalist protest. Long, hard hours were worked in extremely difficult and sometimes dangerous circumstances.

I acknowledge that complaints have been made against the Force but it must also be made known that I and other officers have received many messages of appreciation for the work of the Police from all sections of the community.

As with all major Police operations, we shall be conducting a review of tactics and strategy to establish what, if any, lessons may be learned for the future.

I should also very much wish to express my warm thanks to our civilian staff who so loyally supported us on Monday, as they have done through all the difficulties of the past.

4 March 1986.