



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2017/10/76
Creation Dates:	1 July 1987
Extent and medium:	3 pages
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

CODED MESSAGE
IMMEDIATE URGENT
DATE 2/7/87 8-02
INITIALS PS

93720A ESTR EI
747282 AISECT G

640C
1.7.87
TO HQ FROM BELFAST

/////

MARCHING SEASON (MORE)

FOR O TUATHAIL FROM LILLIS

RYAN HAD A MEETING BY ARRANGEMENT THIS AFTERNOON WITH THE DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF SECURITY, STEPHENS, AND HIS UNDER SECRETARY, INNES, TO DISCUSS SECURITY CO-OPERATION ISSUES.

AT MY REQUEST, RYAN PUT THE POINTS ABOUT OUR CONCERNS ABOUT PORTADOWN AND THE MARCHING SEASON GENERALLY TO BOTH OF THEM IN A FORCEFUL WAY.

INNES REMARKED THAT THE ORANGE ORDER HAD PUT IN A REQUEST FOR A MARCH ROUTE FOR SUNDAY NEXT, JUNE 5, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE A NUMBER OF CATHOLIC AREAS (OBIN STREET, TUNNEL). INNES ADDED THAT THE RUC HAD REJECTED THIS COMPLETELY. HE HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO WHAT THE RUC HAD PROPOSED TO THE ORANGEMEN.

OTHERWISE THE OTHER SIDE, WHO WERE AWARE OF MY MEETINGS WITH ELLIOTT AND STANLEY, TOOK NOTE OF THE POINTS THAT RYAN MADE.

/////

1120

93720A ESTR EI

747282 AISECT G

639C CONTD.
1.7.87
TO HQ FROM BELFAST

/////

MARCHING SEASON

FOR O TUATHAIL FROM LILLIS
PSE COPY O'DONOVAN AND COLLINS

PSS
AFSD Mathew
Counselor A.I.
Mr. Mathews
Mr. Wally
Box

CODED MESSAGE
IMMEDIATE URGENT
CONFIDENTIAL
DATE 2/7 TIME PS
INITIALS.....

ELLIOTT WENT ON TO ASK ME TO REMIND MY AUTHORITIES OF THE POINTS MADE ON THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH LAST YEAR TO ME BY SECRETARY OF STATE, KING, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE 12TH OF JULY HAD IN FACT GONE OFF EXTREMELY WELL, GIVEN THE EXPECTATION, INCLUDING THE DESIRE OF EXTREMIST UNIONISTS, THAT THERE WOULD BE WIDESPREAD CONFRONTATION, AND THAT KING ATTRIBUTED THIS IN PARTICULAR TO THE ADROIT HANDLING BY THE POLICE OF THE SITUATION IN PORTADOWN THROUGH A COMPROMISE INVOLVING A VERY SMALL PARADE OF A GROUP OF ORANGEMEN WHO WERE PERFECTLY WELL BEHAVED AND WHICH TOOK PLACE EARLY IN THE MORNING.

I SAID THAT I ASSUMED ELLIOTT WOULD EXPECT ME TO SAY - WHAT I HAD VERY STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE - THAT THESE POINTS WOULD NOT PERSUADE IRISH MINISTERS AND THAT, IF A MARCH ON THE GARVAGHY ROAD AT WHATEVER TIME OF THE DAY WENT AHEAD, THERE WOULD BE A SERIOUS REACTION FROM DUBLIN INCLUDING PROBABLY A PUBLIC REACTION.

ELLIOTT UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THIS DIRECTLY TO KING AND TO THE NEW MINISTER IN CHARGE OF SECURITY, STANLEY.

MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE

I HAVE REPORTED IN WRITING ON OTHER ASPECTS OF MY MEETING WITH STANLEY THIS AFTERNOON, INCLUDING MY COMMENTS ON THE SECTIONS OF OUR DISCUSSION ON THE MARCHING SEASON AND SPECIFICALLY PORTADOWN.

I COVERED THE SAME GROUND WITH STANLEY AS I HAD DONE WITH ELLIOTT EARLIER IN THE DAY. ELLIOTT WAS ALSO PRESENT.

STANLEY SAID THAT THE ARGUMENT I WAS PUTTING, I.E. THAT THE PRINCIPLE SHOULD BE OBSERVED THAT PROVOCATIVE MARCHES SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN AREAS WHERE THEY ARE UNWELCOME, WAS TO HIM AN UNANSWERABLE ARGUMENT. HE FELT THAT, IN APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE PRINCIPLE SHOULD BE ISSUED AS A DIRECTIVE TO THE POLICE.

ELLIOTT INTERVENED TO REMIND THE MINISTER THAT NEITHER THE SECRETARY OF STATE NOR HE HAD ANY POWERS IN THESE MATTERS SAVE WHEN THE CHIEF CONSTABLE ASKED THAT A MARCH SHOULD BE BANNED.

STANLEY SAID THAT, SPEAKING AS SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN ONLY 4 OR 5 DAYS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, HE FELT THAT IN THE SCALE OF THINGS THE TWO GREAT ISSUES NOW WERE, FIRSTLY SECURITY AND STABILITY AND, SECONDLY THE RE-OPENING OF A DIALOGUE WITH THE UNIONISTS WHO HAD BEEN IN VIRTUAL REBELLION SINCE NOVEMBER 1985. AGAINST THESE ISSUES, HE URGED THAT IRISH MINISTERS SHOULD ACCEPT THAT THE ISSUE OF ONE PARTICULAR MARCH WAS NOT COMPARABLE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DAMAGE TO ANY DIALOGUE WITH UNIONIST WHICH MIGHT BE CAUSED, FOR EXAMPLE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE BANNING A MARCH, WOULD BE DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE ISSUE OF THE MARCH ITSELF.

I SAID THAT, WHILE SHARING STANLEY'S HOPES FOR STABILITY AND A DIALOGUE, IRISH MINISTERS WOULD ALSO SAY THAT NATIONALISTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND FELT GENERATIONAL BITTERNESS THAT THESE PROVOCATIVE PARADES IN THEIR AREAS WERE A MAJOR ISSUE. THE FACT WAS THAT THESE MARCHES WERE THE SOURCE OF A VERY GREAT DEAL OF THE TROUBLE OF RECENT YEARS AND THAT THE DERRY APPRENTICE BOYS MARCH MARKED THE FIRST SERIOUS ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN THE LATE 1960S. THE FACT WAS THAT IRISH MINISTERS DID NOT SHARE HIS JUDGEMENT AS TO THE SCALE OF PROBLEMS AND, MUCH AS THEY MIGHT WISH TO REFRAIN FROM DOING SO, THEY WOULD HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ADVERSLY WERE THINGS TO GO WRONG IN PORTADOWN.

STANLEY SAID THAT HE HAD HAD NO BRIEFING OR APPROACH OR ANY

INFORMATION OTHERWISE FROM THE POLICE ABOUT THE MARCHES THIS YEAR.

I SAID THAT I COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THERE WAS NO CONTACT BETWEEN POLICE AND MINISTERS ON THE HANDLING OF OCCASIONS WHICH HAD MAJOR PUBLIC POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND THAT I HAD SEEN MYSELF LAST YEAR THAT THERE WAS DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN THE RUC AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THE THE PORTADOWN MARCHES (ALBEIT ON 11 JULY). I SAID THAT I WOULD ASSUME THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT SUCH DIALOGUE WOULD TAKE PLACE AND I WOULD ASK STANLEY AND KING TO TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNS OF NATIONALISTS AND THE RELATED VIEWS OF IRISH MINISTERS IN THESE EXCHANGES.

ELLIOTT INTERVENED TO SAY THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DANGER THAT IT WOULD MAKE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT WITH THE POLICE WERE IT TO BE PLAIN THAT IRISH MINISTERS WERE EXERTING PRESSURE. STANLEY CONFIRMED THIS POINT.

I DREW STANLEY'S ATTENTION TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT UNDER THE AGREEMENT TO RAISE THESE MATTERS (ARTICLE 7(A) OF THE AGREEMENT). HE ACCEPTED THIS BUT COUNTERED WITH THE PROVISIONS IN ARTICLE 9(B) ON THE OPERATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE POLICE.

I ASKED STANLEY TO SEE THE SDLP'S REPRESENTATIVE IN PORTADOWN WHO WAS REQUESTING AN INTERVIEW. HE SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER THIS SYMPHETICALLY.

/////