



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Note: Mr. Mc Kue informs me that  
this information conveyed to  
Secretariat on Saturday 9/7/88.

By J 11/7/88

Loyalist Parades; Portadown

Received  
11/7/88  
By J

PA  
6-5 -

Brid Rogers contacted me this evening (Saturday) and conveyed the following points in connection with the loyalist parades in Portadown;

- RUC have granted permission for the Church parade to march down Garvahy Road on Sunday, on the basis that it will not be allowed down Obins street. This is the same condition which applied last year and which resulted in the absence of any parade down Garvahy. It is unlikely that there will be a similar outcome this year; she is aware that sections of the loyalist marchers are contemplating a parade down Obins street and fears that some symbolic effort made be made.

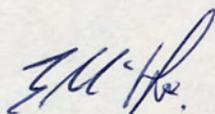
- She strongly objects to the arrangements and points out that the loyalist march down nationalist Garvahy involves a detour and as such is a blatant act of provocation and coat-trailing. Furthermore, it coincides with 12 noon mass there with the result that catholic church goers become subjected to strong RUC supervision.

- while somewhat resigned to the fact the Sunday march will go ahead, she made it clear that she found the prospect of a second march down Garvahy on the 12th intolerable. She points out that the march down Garvahy on the 12th would not be "traditional", was therefore inexcusable on any basis, and could set up a dangerous precedent for future years.

- her final point of concern was the planned bonfire in the vicinity of Obins street on the night of the 11th. This, she said, was the scene of violence in the past, directed at the nationalist - and generally elderly - residents of Obins street and adjoining area. She will be asking the RUC for a strong presence in advance of any of the loyalist activities there; last year the RUC arrived 1½ hours after trouble began, leading to local nationalist cynicism to the effect that the RUC had let the loyalists have their "fun" before going in, though she added that

they had gone in with some force when they finally arrived.

Ms. Rogers requested that these points be raised through the Secretariat. While she will again seek a meeting with the local RUC chief, she was concerned with the absence of any information yet as to the RUC's intentions. She would very much wish to hear as soon as possible what is the RUC's position and would appreciate some response to her concerns.



Eamonn McKee,  
9 July, 1988