



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code:	2018/28/2197
Creation Dates:	14 July 1988
Extent and medium:	2 pages
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

14 July 1988

line in 2/1/1988

Mr. Dermot Gallagher
 Assistant Secretary
 Department of Foreign Affairs

*PA
6-5*

*Mr. Nally
 Mr. Matthews / Mr. Brennan
 PSS
 3 Counsellors A/I
 Box*

Summary Note on Marches

Dear Assistant Secretary

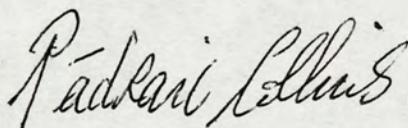
The general view here is that the marching season has been one of the quietest in recent years. It would appear that the RUC had anticipated the main problem areas well and moved to re-route parades (e.g. Limavady) where necessary. In fact, Limavady, while a source of concern to the RUC until late on Monday night 11/12 July, seems to have been relatively peaceful. You will recall that we spoke to the Chief Constable early on Tuesday morning and, following a check on the main problem areas, he told us that the only trouble spot, at that stage, seemed likely to be in Crawford Square in Limavady.

The assessment of the British side is that there was little trouble between loyalists and nationalists or between the latter and the police. Such trouble as flared up was, for the most part, between loyalist youths and the RUC. Statistics available at this stage indicate that a total of 60 people were arrested in overnight trouble on the night of 11 July and at least 11 policemen were injured. The worst clashes between police and loyalist youths were in Ballinahinch where the house of a police reservist was attacked with petrol bombs. I understand that a nationalist youth has been arrested in connection with this attack.

We maintained direct contact over the period with the British Joint Secretary and with the Under-Secretary in charge of the Law and Order Branch of the NIO, Bill Innes, and the Assistant Secretary there, Mr. Steve Hewitt. Both felt, when we met them

on the night of 12 July, that the only likely trouble spot on 13 July was Portadown where a Black Perceptory march was to be held. They feared a confrontation when, as they understood would happen, marchers attempted to march through the Tunnel/Obins Street, a route the police had banned. In the event, there seems to have been no trouble at this march. Both Innes and Hewitt told me that the Assistant Chief Constable in charge of marches, Blair Wallace, was very professional and a "policeman's policeman" and was inclined to "hammer" trouble-makers at an early stage (this would seem to be borne out by what Eddie McGrady told the Department in relation to the events at Ballinahinch).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Padraic Collins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Padraic Collins