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PAB/900/BN

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B)
PS/Ministers (L&B)
PS/PUS (L&B)
PS/Mr Bloomfield
Mr Stephens
Mr Brennan
Mr Chesterton
Mr Merifield
Mr Carvill
Miss Elliott
Mr Lyon
Mr Bickham
Mr Hamilton, DOE

UUP/DUP STRATEGY

We have had sight of two circular letters from Mr Molyneaux to all his party's MPs, Assembly members and district councillors. The gist of which is as follows.

In his first letter, dated 2 August, Mr Molyneaux lays down suggested policy guidelines for unionist councillors on handling Sinn Fein at the local level. He claims that the policy he has suggested is one which has also been endorsed by Dr Paisley and, thus forms the basis of their joint approach. He suggests that the unionists on all of the 17 councils where they hold a majority 'should act to exclude Sinn Fein from council business by way of a simple resolution resolving that council business be conducted by a committee of the council to which, naturally, Sinn Fein members should not be elected'. This is, in essence, the approach adopted originally by Craigavon council.

The letter goes on to recognise that this kind of action will probably result in appeals to the High Court. However, Mr Molyneaux says that other councils are 'morally obliged' to follow this line of action and that a protracted series of court cases will serve the unionist cause by sustaining 'public anger and indignation'. Molyneaux also claims that both he and Dr Paisley are prepared to launch a public appeal for funds where councils feel that their own resources are not sufficient to meet the costs of High Court actions.

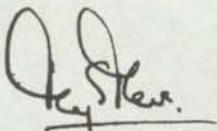
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The second letter we have seen sets out the UUP policy towards the new framework organisation - the Ulster Loyalist Front. Mr Molyneaux argues that the responsibility of leadership of the majority community falls to the two unionist parties. He is therefore not convinced that 'our interests are best served by the formation of new loyalist groupings or fronts, no matter how well intentioned'. Now that the UUP and DUP have solidified their alliance, he is opposed to any organisation which may threaten to split this new found unity. He makes it clear that any member of the UUP who attends the ULF rally on 7 August must do so in an individual capacity. They are not to speak on behalf of the party or commit the UUP to any course of action 'which might be considered or agreed'. Molyneaux concludes by suggesting that the new loyalist front acts as a filter through which the views of the unionist population at large might be fed to the political leaders of the two main parties.



R S REEVE

Political Affairs Division

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