



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Sec 6/5.

Note

*M. O'Donnell
To see pl.
RUC 23/9/88*

The attached is a statement made by Bríd Rodgers to the RUC after the 12th July parade in Portadown this year. In it, Ms Rodgers questions the decision to allow the march through nationalist Garvagh. She accuses the marchers of openly flouting the RUC stipulation that there should be no provocative music. She states that she is of the view that this march should not be allowed through Garvagh in future.

*the situation
Mrs Rodgers reported this to
us at the time.
cl
23/9*


Liam Canniffe,
23 September, 1988.

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF: Brid' Rodgers

AGE OF WITNESS [if over 21 enter "over 21"] : Over 21

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS: Housewife

ADDRESS: 34 Kilmore Road, Lurgan

TO BE COMPLETED
WHEN THE
STATEMENT HAS
BEEN WRITTEN

I declare that this statement consisting of 3 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 2 day of August 19 88

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER by whom
statement was recorded or received

Brid Rodgers

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am a member of Craigavon Borough Council and the Constituent Representative of SDLP in the Upper Bann. I was in Garvaghy Rd. on July 12th 1988 at 7.50 a.m. When the Orange parade appeared at the top of Garvaghy Rd. the leading band which was the Portadown Defenders Flute Band began to play Party Tunes, namely The Sash & Berrys Walls and subsequently the Green Grass slopes of the Boyne. These were played in the usual provocative manner, with loud banging of drums. This was in direct contravention of my clear understanding beforehand that there would be no party tunes through the nationalist area. The people in the area were incensed at this deliberate provocation and pointed out that it proved once & for all that the

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS:

Brid Rodgers.

STATEMENT OF: Brid RodgersCONTINUATION PAGE NO: 2

sole purpose of marching through that area was to provoke nationalists and to assert symbolic dominance. Added to this provocation by the Orange parade was the ~~the~~ ^{B.R.} very real sense of grievance of those people from Garvaghy ^{Park} who were hemmed in and pushed back by police when they tried to walk along the pavement once the bands reached the top of Garvaghy Road. I noted in particular that the attitude of the police at both entrances to Garvaghy Park was quite hostile towards the residents. Some of the latter complained to me that several policemen had made insulting remarks to them. The perception by nationalists of police in the role of protecting a loyalist parade & forcing it through a nationalist area ^{B.R.} in a provocative manner does little for better understanding between the R.U.C. & nationalists. I am firmly convinced that the switching of a provocative orange parade from Oban St. to the Garvaghy Rd. will in the long run make matters worse. The Garvaghy Rd. is not a traditional 12th route. It also involves the parade in taking a roundabout route with the sole purpose of passing through a nationalist area. In the words of the Chief Constable in relation to the proposed Apprentice Boys March of Easter Monday 1986 - "I don't know why they want to

SIGNATURE of STATEMENT MAKER:

Brid Rodgers

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march the Garrahy Road when they have most of the rest of Portadown." The fact that the parade organisers allowed the playing of party tunes in the nationalist area proves beyond any doubt that the sole purpose of the march through Garrahy Rd. is to deliberately co-act. In my view this march should not be allowed through that area again. Brian Rodgers.

Brian Rodgers