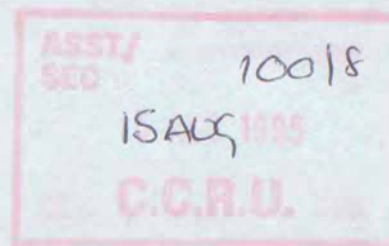


CONFIDENTIAL

F.

M: J M STEELE
AUS (SECURITY)
11 AUGUST 1995



DESK IMMEDIATE

2SI/8

*Mr. K... 16/8.
Five - P...
15/8*

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (L&B) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Marsh - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr McKervill - B
Mr Bramley - B
Mr T Smyth - B
Ms Johnston - B
Mr Pope o/r - B
Mrs R Osborne - B
Duty Officer

*15-8
1. x Mr James
2. h. Taylor.
20
16.1*

PS/Baroness Denton (DED, DANI & L) - By Hand

PARADES - POTENTIAL PUBLIC DISORDER

The Minister and copy addressees will wish to be aware of the latest state of play on the parades due to take place over the weekend.

Apprentice Boys Parades 12 August: Belfast and Londonderry

2. In Belfast, media reports have suggested that tension is mounting over an Apprentice Boys feeder march scheduled for 0800 hours on Saturday 12 August: the march is planned to pass along the Lower Ormeau Road before travelling to Londonderry for the main parade. When the marchers return through the Ormeau area they normally do so by bus. The Minister will recall that on 12 July the Orange Order were permitted to march down the Lower Ormeau Road, and

CONFIDENTIAL

/ -

C O N F I D E N T I A L

that some local residents alleged a heavy-handed approach by the RUC. The Lower Ormeau Concerned Community (LOCC) have claimed they will not tolerate a repeat of 12 July.

3. Discussions between the local Apprentice Boys and representatives of the Lower Ormeau residents are continuing. The most recent information from the RUC is that they do not intend to re-route the parade, and will police the parade through the area: final decisions will not, however, be taken until tomorrow morning.

4. In Londonderry the local subsidiary parade is at 1000 hours; the local Apprentice Boys, as distinct from the 20,000+ main parade, have asked to walk the whole length of the city walls on the morning. (Last year they walked about 200 yards along the walls.) The situation has changed in that the whole of the wall is now open to the public without restriction. Residents from the Bogside area of Londonderry have threatened to oppose any moves to march on the city's walls overlooking that area. Their spokesperson Donnacha MacNelis said '... they have decided on a course of action should any attempt be made to march on that section. That course of action will become clear over coming days.'

5. The options facing the RUC are as follows:

- (i) no walking on the walls at all;
- (ii) same as last year;
- (iii) last year's arrangement extended;
- (iv) walk the whole length of the walls;

These options are still under consideration and discussions are continuing with the organisers and other community representatives. Final decisions are unlikely until tomorrow morning.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

/_

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Anti-internment Rally, 13 August: Belfast

6. On Sunday 13 August the annual Sinn Fein-organised internment march will take place in Belfast. This will be followed by a major rally at the City Hall at 1500 hours with Gerry Adams as the main speaker. the possibility of loyalist counter marches could heighten tension in the area.

7. One of the subsidiary parades will march from the Lower Ormeau along Ormeau Road to an initial meeting point at Cromac Square. The RUC's understanding is that they will walk on the footpath; if the numbers are any way sizeable the marchers will be diverted along the new Lagan tow-path which brings them to Central Station. This should circumvent possible disorder in the vicinity of the loyalist Donegall Pass/Ormeau Road area.

8. The main march will commence in Twinbrook at 1300 hours and travel city-wards on the Stewartstown Road. At Suffolk Road it will turn left into Horn Drive and right into Lenadoon Avenue to Stewartstown Road, thus avoiding possible confrontation with loyalists at Suffolk estate opposite Woodburn Station. This is a voluntary arrangement by the organisers.

9. The Army have received reports indicating that Sinn Fein are planning a series of events on 12 and 13 August (days of action) on a Province-wide basis. It is not known what this 'action' will consist of although we suspect it will take the form of protests. The RUC, interestingly, do not have information on this.

Security Forces Disposition

10. For the weekend, HQNI have arranged, at RUC request, a reserve force of 6 companies grouped into two battalion groups. As part of this arrangement the Province Reserve Battalion (normally located in England) have moved two companies to Aldergrove (from 10 August), and have one in reserve in GB on 48' hours notice to move. All will remain under the operational control of the

C O N F I D E N T I A L

/_

Commander Land Forces unless a decision is taken to devolve command to Commanders 8 and 39 Bdes, in support of the RUC.

11. The Aldergrove elements (the Royal Regiment of Wales battalion group which includes the PRB companies) will, if deployed, use SAXON armoured vehicles. The remaining elements will operate in SNATCH land-rovers.

Conclusion

12. The Minister is invited to note the contingent arrangements for this weekend's parades and demonstrations. Should the need arise, I shall be available to discuss matters with her and handle any press inquiries.

[Signed]

J M STEELE

EXT 27012