



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/47/83

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.

23 June, 1993

422/1
431/2

SECURE FAX #422. 4 pages

To: Belfast
For: Sean Farrell

From: H.Q.
From: D. Kelleher

Orange Parades

1. The following appear to be the locations of the principal (i.e. County) parades, all of which are scheduled to be held on 12 July itself:

Co. Antrim

Carnmoney
Ballinderry
Cullybackey
Ballymena
Broughshane
Rasharkin

Co. Armagh

Portadown

Belfast

Edenderry

Co. Down

Killyleagh
Banbridge
Annalong
Bangor

Co. Fermanagh

Enniskillen

Co. Derry

Maghera

420/2
431/3

Coleraine

Co. Tyrone

Dungannon

Clogher

~~Coleraine~~ (near Strabane)

Beragh

2. Clearly, there are prima facie grounds for concern in relation to some of these locations, notably Portadown, Rasharkin, Cullybackey, Banbridge, Maghera, Dungannon, Killyleagh and Enniskillen. We are trawling for flashpoints and we will be back to you in several days.

3. Portadown is clearly sensitive every year and in particular this year as it is the Armagh County parade. We would wish to discuss routing and timing. We will be back to you with further details and would wish to discuss band and Church parades in Portadown and other areas also. There have been problems in the past with Rasharkin and Cullybackey although last year they appeared to pass off without significant problems. Banbridge, Dungannon, and Enniskillen have clear potential for problems, depending on the route and timing. The Maghera parade should be seen as a potential flashpoint given sectarian killings affecting that area earlier in the year. Killyleagh/Shrigley has been a problem in the past. You will recall that last year Loyalists were angry at a RUC decision to refuse to allow a late night band march through Shrigley (a nationalist village just outside Killyleagh) and threatened to counter the RUC decision.

4. You may be interested in the following additional points at this stage:

Limavady: Fr. Donnelly tells me that matters have been quiet so far. He recently visited the local RUC Chief Inspector about a potential clash of timing between a significant Orange parade on the evening of 10 July. This

is likely to clash with two evening Masses (7.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. involving about 1300 parishioners). His concern is at the large-scale interference and disturbance that the clash of times is likely to cause.

North Belfast: Duncairn Gardens, according to Brian Feeney, is not expected to see a parade this year. There are, however, problems in Donegall St. I spoke to the local P.P. about a large mini-Twelfth parade (last Friday) which was scheduled to pass St. Patrick's (Donegall St.) during a Novena. The RUC prevailed on the organisers of the parade (essentially a kick the pope affair) to defer ^{the Red} ~~the~~ The atmosphere was however venomous. The route was Carlisle Circus-Donegall St.-Shankill-Carlisle Circus. (I understand from Brian Feeney that a Red Hand Commando "colour party" was present). In principle, these parades should be stopped from entering Donegall St. You may also wish to raise the questions of the RHC colour party.

Pomeroy: According to Fr. McGirr, several mini-marches, (dressed up as Church memorials to recent victims of IRA attacks, including David Martin) have taken place. These keep to the centre of the village. Fr. McGirr said that the main concern related to the closure of shops.

West Belfast: As you will have seen from the media, an Orange parade (No. 9 District Lodge) is scheduled for 26 June, and is expected to follow the route Shankill-Springfield Road-Whiterock Orange Hall. Over the years, the routing of this parade into the Springfield Road has been pushed progressively to the north - from Cupar Street to Ainsworth Avenue and possibly to Workman Avenue this year. I have spoken to Brian Feeney who would prefer that it be routed along the West Circular Road (which is Loyalist) into Springfield Road so that it completely avoids nationalist areas of the Springfield Road.

422/4
431/5

2. Lower Ormeau

Alasdair McDonnell is pleased at the recently publicised decision relating to the Lower Ormeau. His understanding is that the mini-Twelfth parade (the contentious one) will stay in Ballynafeigh and will not come across the Bridge into the Lower Ormeau. The parade on the 12th itself will however go ahead down the Lower Ormeau and will return by the alternative route used last year for the Blackmen. McDonnell praised Victor Shaw of Donegall Pass RUC Station for his work in this regard. I asked McDonnell whether he felt that scope for problems remained with the 12th July parade. He was inclined to downplay this. (Notwithstanding McDonnell's comments, we should not rule out the possibility of difficulties arising at the 12th July parade). It would be desirable to seek clarification at the forthcoming meeting on the precise modalities envisaged by the RUC for the Lower Ormeau this marching season.

6. At the meeting we will also reaffirm points of principle, which were of course aired at the most recent Conference meeting. We should also seek a copy of the RUC's document, as we have done in previous years.

A707

100