

# **An Chartlann Náisiúnta** National Archives

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28 June 1994

TO: Belfast FROM:

FOR: Joint Secretary

#### FROM:

D. Relleher

H. Q.

#### Orange Parades

1.

The following are the locations of the principal (i.e. county) Orange parades scheduled for the 12th:

Co. Antrim Larne Derriaghy Portglenone Ballymena Broughshane Ballymoney

### Co. Armagh

Richhill

#### Belfast

Edenderry (with two potentially sensitive feeders: District No. 10, which comes from Ballynafeigh down the Lower Ormeau; and District no. 9, which comes from Whiterock.

Co. Down Saintfield Moira Kilkeel Newtownards

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<u>Co. Fermanagh</u> Lisnaskea

<u>Co. Derry</u> Kilrea Limavady

Co. Tyrone Benburb Killen Ballygawley

- Trawls in these locations indicate no obvious major flashpoints but prima facie grounds for concern in several locations:
  - Kilrea (this is a mainly nationalist village close to a strongly Loyalist hinterland). One fear is that tension may linger from the IRA murder of "Smudger" Smith in neighbouring Garvagh several months ago;
  - Limavady (although our contacts report no major difficulties, there is a danger of "Greysteel" triumphalism by Loyalists);
  - Ballygawley (80% nationalist town. Local nationalists appear surprisingly sanguine thus far. We will stay in close touch with the situation here).
    - Newtownards. There were problems the last time there was a County parade. It passed the Catholic Church. (There is no good reason why the Orange Parade should do so).

#### 3. North Belfast

You will be aware of problems in this area, notably <u>Duncairn Gardens</u> which we have raised at Conference level, and which we will wish to discuss further. In addition, the clergy at St. Patrick's, Donegall Street (on the main Shankill feeder route into Royal Avenue), tell me that on 17 June, an aggressive and sizeable parade passed the chapel (during a Novena) three times. The RUC congregated in strength to protect the Church and a brief running skirmish took place between the RUC and marchers/camp followers. The usual Loyalist bands were in attendance e.g. Shankhill Road Sharpshooters. (We raised a similar occurrence at St. Patrick's last year).

#### Lower Ormeau

4. Local nationalist contacts are generally happy at the achievements under this heading, in particular the rerouting of the mini-Twelfth away from the Lower Ormeau. The feeder (No. 10 district) for the main Belfast parade on the 12th, I understand, will go down the Lower Ormeau but will return along Agincourt Avenue (i.e. it will not pass the bookie's shop). There is also a Church parade on the Sunday (10th) which will go down the Lower Ormeau.

#### Portadown

5. There are strongly held local views that the various parades in Portadown over the 12th period (two on the 10th; one on the 12th) should be routed away from the Garvaghy Road area.

#### Garvagh, Co. Derry

6. While matters have improved over the last two years, this has been a difficult area in the past, owing to the heavily Loyalist and drunken flavour of the 11th night parade and bonfires. Moreover, tensions from the IRA killing of "Smudger" Smith several months ago may be a negative influence;

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#### Cookstown\_

7. Local contacts indicate that problems persist with the times of band marches (clashing with evening Masses during the Marching Season), but that the parades have been arranged to be "less intrusive" over the past year. Objections remain to sealing parts of the town for big parades.

#### Killough, Shrigley, Ballynahinch

- 8. There have been significant improvements in these areas in recent years although the potential for problems remains. Local contacts are reasonably happy thus far.
- We would be grateful for a date for the meeting with the other side. We would of course welcome access to the RUC's booklet of parades.

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