



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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SECURE FAX

518/2

9 August, 1994

To: Belfast
For: S. Farrell

From: H. Q.
From: D. Kelleher

Apprentice Boys' Parade, Derry, 13 August

1. Mark Durkan has been in touch about the Apprentice Boys' Parade scheduled for 13 August (which is almost to the day the 25th Anniversary of the Apprentice Boys' Parade of 12 August 1969. You will wish to be aware also that on 14 August, a Republican rally is planned to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bogside. This has been advertised in An Phoblacht as starting from the Creggan).

2. Durkan understands that the Apprentice Boys have applied to the RUC for access to the Walls. Durkan has made clear to us that the SDLP are not looking for an absolute denial of access to the Walls by the Apprentice Boys. Rather his concerns are the following:
 - to restrict the access to the Walls to a clearly limited segment well away from the Bogside. (He mentioned that an appropriate stretch would be adjacent to the Fountain, well away from the Bogside);

 - to ensure that the scale and behaviour of the Apprentice Boys' demonstration in this area is reasonable and restrained;

 - that the RUC maintain an effective policing presence into the night given the danger of stone throwing by Loyalists or nationalists, and the possibility of confrontations. (This is against a background of tensions between elements in the two communities which Durkan privately feels, on recent experience,

that the RUC have been somewhat slow to appreciate); 518/3

- that there be full consultation between the RUC and Durkan and his colleagues. (Note: When Durkan mentioned to Craig, the RUC Divisional Commander, that he was aware of the Apprentice Boys' plans, Craig expressed surprise that Durkan was so aware and then indicated that it had been the RUC intention to consult Durkan and colleagues).
3. By way of background, you should be aware that there is a provisional decision to reopen the Walls (including removing some security obstacles) in October in the context of Derry's involvement in a European Festival of Walled Cities. The Walls will thus become effectively open to the public. This, along with considerations of relations with the Unionist community (and the factor of the Republican rally, which is expected to pass close to the city centre, and within sight, according to Durkan, of Apprentice Boys' HQ) incline the SDLP not to seek absolute denial of access to the Walls by the Apprentice Boys. In addition, Durkan is anxious that there be no public controversy over moves by the SDLP (or ourselves) to have the Parade rerouted.
4. We would be grateful therefore if you would take the matter up with the other side on the basis of the four points listed at para 2 above. You might preface your presentation by making the following points also:
- the date in question has an obvious and palpable significance on the 25th Anniversary;
 - inevitably, there will be close scrutiny of the RUC's handling of the Parade and surrounding events and comparisons with the approach of the RUC 25 years ago.

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