

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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8 June 1997 **No of pages including this one: 2**

To: HQ **From: Belfast**
For: COFloinn/EMcKee **From: BNOLAN**

Subj: Harryville 7 June 1997 - "Pride of the Maine" Band Parade

1. I was in contact with the other side here on Saturday afternoon, 6 June, about the weekly protest outside Harryville church. The planned band parade this weekend added urgency to our request to be kept informed of developments.

2. In the event, the protest took its usual course. There was some stone throwing as church goers emerged and one arrest.

"Pride of the Maine" Band Parade

3. The band parade took place after Mass and trouble started as bands returned from their "demonstration". It would seem that the 300 or so regular Harryville protesters prolonged their activities and there were serious disturbances for about two hours from 10.30pm onwards.

4. The other side gave me the following information Sunday am:

- A section of the crowd of protesters attacked police and the "chapel" at Harryville.
- There was fire damage to the porch of the church and some windows were broken.
- Police fired 16 BRPs.
- There were six arrests and more are likely.
- 27 police suffered injuries, none seriously.

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Media Reports

5. BBC NI lunchtime news, Sunday, carried the Harryville disturbances as the lead item. According to report: Lord Dubs, NIO Minister, has described Saturday night's events as disgraceful."Once again, it exposed the scourge of sectarianism which exists in our divided society" Sean Farren (SDLP) has called for an investigation into the timing and conduct of band parades.

6. Speaking on BBC's "Sunday Sequence" programme, 8 June 1997, which dealt with a number of difficult community issues in NI, incl. parades, Rev. Ken Newell of Fitzroy Presbyterian Church said :

> *I have been in rooms with people who have committed some horrendous murders, trying to nudge them towards the path of Christ. I would encourage members of the lodge who are chaplains that maybe the lodges could consider setting these chaplains aside, to meet with residents groups and the members who do have criminal records, who are elected by these groups. So that they can deal with them pastorally, deal with them sensitively, deal with them in a straight forward manner, but always deal with them in hope.*

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555/2

NORTHERN IRELAND
Information Service

8 June 1997

STATEMENT BY LORD DUBS FOLLOWING DAMAGE TO OUR LADY'S CHURCH, HARRYVILLE, BALLYMENA

"I unreservedly condemn last night's disgraceful scenes of violence at Our Lady's church, Harryville, Ballymena.

"Once again the scourge of sectarianism has been exposed in our divided society. There can be no justification for such attacks on church property or on the police," said Lord Dubs.

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