

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code:	2021/51/576
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.

SECURE FAX: 864

DATE: 29 August 1996 PAGES: 1

TO: HQ FROM: BELFAST

FOR: E. McKEE FROM: C. O'Shea

Please cc D/Justice

SITUATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD: 0700 HOURS WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST 1996
0700 HOURS THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 1996

SECURITY

CLMC Statement — The Combined Loyalist Military Command issued the following statement yesterday evening:

"As from midnight tonight Mr Billy Wright has 72 hours to leave Ulster. Mr Alec Kerr must remain at all times in isolation whilst in custody. Upon release he must also leave Ulster within 72 hours. Failure by either man to conform with this directive will result in summary justice for their treasonable and subversive activities. Anyone supporting these persons in their actions will be similarly dealt with."

Londonderry — At 2335 the doors of Christchurch (Church of Ireland) in Infirmary Road suffered a petrol bomb attack. There was slight scorch damage to two wooden doors.

N.B. Please note that the punishment beating incident mentioned in yesterday's Situation Report (for period 7am on Tuesday 27 August to 7am on Wednesday 28 August) took place in the Creggan area of Derry while the intimidation incident happened in the Hazelbank area of Derry.

©DFA/2021/51/576

09:34 29 Aug Maverick N.Ireland "Loyalist" defies death threat

[redacted] Andrew Hill

BELFAST, Aug 29 (Reuter) - A leading figure in Northern Ireland's shadowy Protestant "Loyalist" politics said on Thursday that he would defy an order to leave the province by the movement's underground leadership.

Billy Wright told BBC radio that he had been given 72 hours to leave Northern Ireland or face "summary justice" from the Combined Loyalist Military Command (CLMC), the umbrella group for outlawed Protestant pro-British guerrilla groups.

"I have no plans to leave my family or home," said Wright, who says he is close to the leadership of one branch of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) guerrillas fighting a murky war to keep Northern Ireland British.

A statement from the CLMC said that Wright and a colleague, who is still in jail, must leave Northern Ireland by the weekend after attempting to set up a breakaway faction.

"Failure by either man to comply with this directive will result in summary justice for their treasonable and subversive activities. Anybody supporting these persons in their activities will be similarly dealt with," a CLMC statement said.

The dispute highlighted strains in the Loyalist movement which threaten a 22-month ceasefire it declared to get its political spokesmen involved in Anglo-Irish Northern Ireland peace talks which resume in Belfast on September 9.

Wright accused the UVF's political arm, the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP), of betraying Loyalism, so-called because of its membership's allegiance to the British crown and opposition to IRA guerrillas fighting to end British rule of the province.

"I believe that the political direction in which they are moving is wrong. I believe time would be better spent sticking up for Northern Ireland," said Wright.

Wright has survived several assassination attempts by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), a Catholic-backed guerrilla group which ended a 20-month ceasefire in February and resumed its war on British rule with a wave of attacks outside the province.

David Ervine, leader of the PUP, said this week that the Loyalist truce was close to breaking point because of the IRA's failure to renew its own ceasefire.

The Mid-Ulster UVF faction was expelled from the CLMC in August after the unsolved killing of a Catholic taxi driver during a standoff between Protestant Orange marchers and police at Drumcree near Portadown.

The UVF denied that any of its units carried out the killing but police said the death had all the hallmarks of a killing by Loyalists, who killed 900 Catholics in a 25-year war to terrorise the community from which the IRA draws support.

The Drumcree standoff ended when police reversed a ban on the Orange Order marching through a Catholic, Irish nationalist area of Portadown, sparking a wave of Catholic protests which included the bombing of a hotel and riots.

Wright, in his trademark tight jeans, cropped blonde hair and earring, was seen by reporters monitoring the standoff between marchers and police at Portadown.

Both the IRA and Loyalist movements have survived numerous policy fissures and breakaway movement over the past quarter century but internal feuding has killed dozens of members.

For related news, double click on one of the following codes:
[G] [NEWS] [IE] [GB] [POL] [LEN]

Thursday, 29 August 1996 09:34:22
ENDS [nL29396256]

Na UVF

©DFA/2021/51/576