

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Reference Code:	2021/51/576
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5 September 1996

No of pages including this one: 1

To: HQ
For: C O Floinn

From: Belfast
From: M. Tierney

Please cc Department of Justice

SITUATION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD: 0700 HRS WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER TO 0700 HRS THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 1996

SECURITY:

Belfast 1900 - 2130 hrs	150 residents blocked Dee Street Bridge, Sydenham By-Pass, preventing Cliftonville fans from reaching the Ulster Cup semi-final at the Oval. Minor disturbances flared later at Short Strand, where the RUC were attacked by Roman Catholics with stones, bottles and one petrol bomb. RUC fired three PBRs to disperse the crowd. Three minor police injuries, no civilian injuries and no arrests.
Portadown 1900 hrs	Approximately 2,000 people attended a rally in support of Billy Wright. The rally was addressed by Wright and the Reverend William McCrea MP.

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PSS, S/S Ó hUiginn, Counsellors A-I, Section, Messrs Teahon, Donlon & Dalton, Ambassadors London & Washington, Joint Secretary

pa UVF



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Ms O'Brien

Sinn Féin Mid Ulster representative Councillor Francie Molloy has accused DUP MP Willie McCrea "of gross hypocrisy in his public defence of Billy Wright". Councillor Molloy has demanded that the DUP MP "immediately resign his seat".

Councillor Molloy said:
"There is a clear contradiction in Willie McCrea lending his support to one faction in the current loyalist infighting, and his party calling for the loyalist parties to be expelled from the Stormont talks. The DUP appears content to stir the loyalist pot.

However, of greater concern is Mr McCrea's brazen hypocrisy in claiming to defend freedom of speech - a principle he does not extend to republicans and nationalists.

Willie McCrea and his party refuse to talk to Sinn Féin because they claim we "support violence". And yet Mr McCrea shares a platform and defends the right, of someone who at the very least has publicly asserted the right of loyalists to kill catholics.

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