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*AN RÚNAÍOCHT ANGLA-ÉIREANNACH*
*BÉAL FEIRSTE*

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*ANGLO-IRISH SECRETARIAT*
*BELFAST*

(33)

**Secure Fax: 782SF**

**DATE :** 12 July 1998 **NO. OF PAGES (including this one): 6**

**TO:** Colm Ó Floinn
Anglo-Irish Division

GI / Sectn

Ms. Mc Loughlin
Passed on to the
Taoiseach
13-7-98

**FROM:** Pat Folan

**Copied to Secretary Gallagher**

**Re: Update on Security Situation - Sunday 12 July (6pm)**

1. This follows on from the update given in secure fax 781this morning. The actual numbers at Drumcree last night was around 5,000 and there were indications around lunchtime today that the numbers were decreasing slightly.

2. We maintained contact with the British side over the day and John Steele came to the Secretariat this evening to provide us with an update on the developments.

**Drumcree**

3. He indicated that the appalling sectarian murder of the young Quinn boys in Ballymoney had caused very serious concerns among the Orange Order, emphasised by statements by Rev. William Bingham etc. that the Orange should now withdraw from the Drumcree protests. The tragic events had effectively acted as a catalysis on Orange thinking on their position. There had been a series of meetings of the Orange Order themselves, the Portadown Loyal Orders and with David Trimble culminating in the statements by Trimble and Mallon this evening (a copy of the joint

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statements is attached for information). Following on the Orange Order meeting with Trimble, fifteen Orange Order leaders including Saulters and McCrea were on their way to Drumcree to speak to their people there. Steele felt that it would not necessarily follow that all the Orangemen would come off Drumcree Hill. He could see "a Greenham Common" situation developing. He felt that there would be no big increase in numbers tomorrow.

4. He saw the proximity talks re-engaging early in the week and hoped the progress could be made in these.

5. In relation to Drumcree, he also confirmed that the security barriers and security operation would remain in place until the extent, if any, of the Orange de-escalation of the protest there manifested itself.

**Lower Ormeau Road**

6. You would have seen from my earlier fax (781sf) that the security forces put in place an outer cordon and closed off the area between the Ormeau and Havlock Bridges to non-residents. There was a clear indication from the British side that there were no plans to insert an inner cordon unless the outer cordon was unsuccessful in preventing a large influx of people from outside the area. However, we received indications from the Lower Ormeau Road around 4pm that the RUC had put an operation in place to insert the inner cordon, effectively sealing all of the side streets within that area and were proceeding with a heavy security presence in terms of personnel and vehicles, to the erection of screens etc. Almost simultaneously we received a copy of a statement prepared and issued by the LOCC setting out the format they proposed to adhere to for their protest against Monday's march. It was put in very specific terms, as follows:

1. A short dignified vigil tonight on the Ormeau Road followed by a silent black flag vigil.

2. A silent peaceful and non-confrontational black flag protest on the footpath on one side of the Ormeau Road tomorrow morning as the parade passes by.

3. No attempt to block the Lower Ormeau road or to physically impede the

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parade in anyway.

In light of the significance of this development, we made immediate and strong representations to the British side in regard to the folly of the recently initiated RUC operation.

7. Just prior to John Steele's arrival, we received indications that this operation was in the process of being reversed. He confirmed that the operation was being reversed with the inner cordon being removed and the security operation being confined to the outer cordon put in place earlier this morning. He indicated that they had found themselves in a very difficult position and that the Chief Constable had taken an operational decision just before 4pm to occupy the road in order to enforce the Parades Commission determination. He indicated that the Chief Constable had subsequently received a copy of the LOCC statement and had spoken to Gerard Rice and based on the new situation outlined in that statement had decided to reverse the operation. (It was interesting that the Chief Constable in interviews on radio and television had indicated that if he had a firm declaration that there would be no attempt to block the Orange Parade on Monday, he saw no question of the RUC moving in to restrict the movements of residents. The pursuit of such a declaration and the operational decision taken around 4pm hardly seem to match up. We mentioned this point to Steele and sensed that it was taken without having to be pursued.)

8. We mentioned that considerable and delicate efforts had been made by the Irish Government in securing an appropriate response from the LOCC and Steele was very emphatic in his appreciation of the assistance provided.

9. We also raised some concerns we had received in regard to the return journey of the Loyal Order parade and Steele was satisfied that this would not present major difficulties. He felt that the self-imposed conditions by the Ballynafeigh Orange Lodge will achieve the same result as the conditions laid down by the Parades Commission. He also indicated in response to our inquiry that the outer cordon would be maintained for as long as was necessary but did indicate that this could be modified as circumstances permitted.

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**Other Parades**

10. In regard to other contentious parades, they were still keeping a watchful eye on Keady and were hopeful it would pass off without incidence. There was the prospect of considerable numbers of Orange moving to Keady if the parade encountered any difficulties. Steele understood that both Sinn Féin and John Fee of the SDLP were in Keady talking to people on the ground in an effort to avoid any potential difficulties.

11. Steele indicated that any assistance that we could provide in this area would be helpful and Eamonn McKee undertook to contact people on the ground in Keady, etc. while Bill Nolan undertook to make contact with Newtownbutler.

12. In regard to the murders at Ballymoney, Steele emphasised that these were sectarian murders - there was absolutely no foundation in the suggestions being put about that they had a domestic element.

13. In regard to the eighteen year old youth reported murdered on the Silverstream Road, he mentioned that the "murdered" youth was not in fact dead and was on a life support machine but would not survive.

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# Lower Ormeau Concerned Community

**156 Ormeau Road, Belfast Tel 584020 Tel/Fax 584030**

## Press Release 12th July 1998

# Statement from LOCC

In view of the sectarian murder of three young children LOCC has decided as a mark of respect to respond to tomorrow's Orange march in a silent dignified and non-confrontational way. The residents of the Lower Ormeau Road have for too long been victims of the same sectarianism which has brought about the murder of the three children. It is the rejection of this sectarianism which is central to our opposition to Orange marches through our community. Many of our relatives, neighbours and friends have died as a result of the same sectarianism. The murder of the children has in particular brought back memories of the massacre at Sean Graham's Bookmakers in 1992.

Our protest against Monday's sectarian march will take the following form:

1. There will be a short dignified vigil tonight on the Ormeau Road followed by a silent black flag vigil.
2. There will be a silent, peaceful and non-confrontational black flag protest on the footpath on one side of the Ormeau Road tomorrow morning as the parade passes by.
3. There will be no attempt to block the Lower Ormeau Road or to physically impede the parade in any way.

Our decision in no way reflects any diminution in our opposition to sectarian parades by the Orange Order, the Apprentice Boys and the Black Preceptory. We do not believe that tomorrow's march by the Orange Order should go ahead. We have written to the Orange Order asking them to voluntarily re-route, if not out of respect for the wishes of the residents of the Lower Ormeau then out of respect for the three young children murdered in Ballymoney.

We re-state our position that there should be no future parades without the agreement of this community.

We call upon the Orange Order to lift its siege of the Garvaghy Road residents. We would regard it as particularly ungracious if the Orange Order were to attempt to use our gesture to excuse any continued action against the Garvaghy Road residents or any other community.

We express our sincere condolences to the Quinn family, the family of the young man murdered in North Belfast and all those who have suffered as a result of this last shameful week of violence.

End (further details – contact the [redacted] above).

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# THE NEW NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

12 July 1998

**STATEMENT BY FIRST MINISTER DAVID TRIMBLE AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER SEAMUS MALLON**

Assembly First Minister and Deputy First Minister have extended their heartfelt sympathy to the family of Richard, Mark and Jason Quinn

In a joint statement, David Trimble and Seamus Mallon said: "This is a tragedy that could and should have been prevented. Three young, innocent lives have been destroyed and a family left devastated, by the callous, brutal killers whose only goals are destruction and division in our society.

"We appeal to the Orangemen at Drumcree to immediately end their protest and to return to their homes. Should this happen, we ask the Residents' Committee and the people of Garvaghy to positively recognise the significance of such a move. Nothing can be gained from continuing this stand-off. As the Rev William Bingham has said, 'no road is worth a life' and we echo that sentiment.

"On behalf of the people of Northern Ireland we are committed to finding a resolution. Between us we have the mandate to strive for peace and progress for all our people. We will go forward to find a solution to this crisis and in the wider context, other parades' issues.

"Everyone in a position of responsibility should decide today, either we go back to the violence and terror of the past, or move forward to democracy and dialogue for a better future.

"Violence, from whatever quarter, has no role in the future of Northern Ireland. We, as political leaders, will go about the task of building confidence and trust.

"We have an overwhelming mandate from the people to do just that. We will work together to create the structures based on mutual respect and tolerance for all traditions."

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