

- CC PS/SOS (B&L)
- PS/Mr Alison (B&L)
- PS/PUS (B&L)
- Mr Bell ✓
- Mr Blelloch
- Mr Marshall
- Dr Quigley
- Mr Wyatt
- Mr Gilliland
- Mr Kennedy (Office of Law Reform)
- Mr Davenport
- Mr A R Brown

276/2
Without
Encl.

26/40

Mr Paisley
23/2

Mr Burns
as a courtesy
in view of a note

Mr Burns

Mr Burns
Two files attached
3/28/81
I think we have a piece
Can you turn it in?
1/10
27/2/81

DR PAISLEY'S ANNOUNCED DEMONSTRATION IN STORMONT GROUNDS ON SATURDAY 28 MARCH 1981

.... Attached is a copy of a note prepared for me by Mr Ireland covering the law relating to holding of public processions or open air meetings in public places.

We have still not received from Dr Paisley an application to hold a rally in Stormont Grounds but we know, from his own enquiries of John Kennedy (Office of Law Reform) and his announcement during the signing of the "covenant" that this is what he intends. The Secretary of State believes that we must be absolutely sure of our ground on the question of authorising the holding of a rally in the Stormont estate. Although this is still a somewhat hypothetical question careful consideration should be given to contingency planning for the event.

I should be grateful if you would co-ordinate the preparation of a note for the Secretary of State to see for Friday 6 March. I think this note will need to cover:-

- (a) the role of the RUC in the movement of people either in procession or casually to and from the estate. (I believe that the RUC might be rather thin on the ground given that the memorial service for the Stronges will be held on the same day and there will be a particularly difficult football match for the police to cover);

E. R.

(b) the law relating to the authorising of rallies in the estate (which includes the Stormont Regulation and Government Property Act (NI) 1933 and the Stormont Estate Regulations 1933);

(c) the legal and practical implications of the possibility that Dr Paisley might wish to address those gathered together from the balcony of Parliament Buildings (as he did when an assembly member in 1974).

Maybe the "political" question of whether the rally should be permitted or authorised should also fall within the ambit of this note.

It would also help if you could include something on our past experience on rallies of this sort. I believe a tractorcade was denied access to the estate during the UUUC "strike" of 1976. ? 1977?



JONATHAN MARGETTS
Private Secretary

23 February 1981