

Mr Longley - We copy to Flags/Emblems + Shuts files
Ph 3/8

PS/Mr Viggers (L&B)

cc PS/SOS (L&B)

PS/Secretary of State (L&B)

PS/PUS (L&B)

Mr Colvin

PS/Sir K Bloomfield

Mrs McCormick

Secretary

To copy as above ple

Mr Stephens

LB 4/8

Mr Chesterton

Mr Gibson

Mr Warnock o/r

Mr Nesbitt ✓

Ph 3/8187

Mr McAleer

MC

FLAGS AND EMBLEMS AND INTIMIDATION

1. The company has informed us that of intense picketing of the factory entrance and severe intimidation of workers; this morning the Airport Road was blocked by pickets although the road was opened this afternoon.
2. Without being able to provide precise figures, the company has stated that the number of workers at work today is drastically down on the number who attended yesterday.
3. The company is issuing a statement (copy attached) declaring that, faced with continuing disruption, the production areas at Queen's Island, Castlereagh (Missiles Division) and Hawlmark (Newtownards factory) will be closed until further notice.
4. The company's statement makes it clear that it will not compromise on the issue and that these factory areas will remain closed until management, following consultation with trade union representatives, is satisfied that operations can be resumed in a neutral atmosphere free from intimidation and with no flags and bunting in the workplace.
5. The disruption is beginning to have a severe effect on production of all aerostructures and aircraft activities.

D W Thomson

D W THOMSON

Aircraft and Shipbuilding Branch
Department of Economic Development

3 July 1987

TRANSCRIPT OF STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED BY SHORTS 3 JULY 1987

SHORTS CLOSE PRODUCTION AREAS AT QUEEN'S ISLAND, CASTLEREACH AND HAWLMARK

Shorts this afternoon confirmed that for the second day running, widespread intimidation and vigorous picketing of many entrances to the company's factory premises prevented several thousand Shorts employees from getting into work this morning. It was clear, the company said, that the majority wanted to come to work but were prevented from doing so, underlining the fact that the situation facing the company and all of its employees is serious and the threat to jobs is real.

Shorts added that they wished to make it quite clear that the company was not a party to any agreement to permit the display of flags and bunting inside the factory at any time. The company rules clearly forbid such displays and the company has made it clear that anyone refusing to take flags down or found putting them up will be disciplined.

The events of the last few days show that a minority of employees are intent on defying the company and disrupting its operation. Having given time for common sense to prevail and faced now with continuing disruption, the company has no alternative but to close the production areas at Queen's Island, Castlereagh and Hawmark until further notice.

Accordingly these factory areas will be closed from the end of today's dayshift and will remain closed until management, following consultation with Trade Union representatives, is satisfied that operations can be resumed in a neutral atmosphere free from intimidation and with no flags and bunting in the workplace.

The company will not compromise on this issue, and these factory areas will remain closed until it is clear that employees in these locations are prepared to accept the company's rules on this matter.

As soon as it is clear that the factories can be operated on this basis, they will be reopened.