

CONFIDENTIAL

UNDER/ 332/9
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12SEP1991
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FAIT.

PAB/7406/DGMcN/RG

FROM: D G McNEILL, PAB
DATE: 12 SEPTEMBER 1991

Mr Walker

To see & file re-
FAIT & the

Mr. Mc busker: Church
To see. There is a real
danger of FAIT being ostracised
over this incident & labelled as a
front for the Workers Party. They may
not be Lily white but neither are they

PS/Paymaster General (B&L) - B
to be classified along with the PIRA. 12/9

NEWRY CATHEDRAL SANCTUARY SEEKERS

- cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
- PS/Minister of State (B&L) - B
- PS/Hanley (B&L) - B
- PS/PUS (B&L) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Ledlie - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Alston - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Hamilton - B
- Mr Wood (B&L) - B
- Mr Cooke - B
- Mr Dodds - B
- Mr D J R Hill - B
- Ms Lodge - B
- Mr Maye - B
- HMA Dublin - B
- Mr Archer, RID - B
- Mr Hallett - B

1. The PMG asked for a note on the Newry Cathedral sanctuary seekers.
2. This incident began when 6 men were ordered to "leave Ireland" by PIRA for unspecified crimes against the local community.
3. Two of the men with support from their families and a group called Families against Intimidation and Terror took sanctuary in Newry Cathedral where they stayed for almost two weeks.

Not to be disclosed

4. Cardinal Daly made a mistake in the eyes of his episcopal colleagues in the first day or so in visiting one of the families for pastoral reasons. This was widely interpreted as showing solidarity with the sanctuary seekers.

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Central Community Relations Unit

C O N F I D E N T I A L

5. Cardinal Daly told me in confidence that this incident was hyped up by the media and by the group of advisers - the Families Against Intimidation and Terror. He said that the two individuals in Newry Cathedral would have been prepared to leave and that the church could guarantee them safety were it not for the advice being offered by these advisers. Cardinal Daly went on to say that this advisory organisation was close to another political organisation which rivalled Sinn Fein. He was clearly referring to the Workers' Party. PAB is aware that some of the individuals involved with FAIT share at least common links with others in the Workers' Party.

6. This incident was brought to a conclusion when the church authorities, who did not want to order the two sanctuary seekers to leave, did order their advisers to leave and refused to allow the church to be used for media interviews. Other than that I do not know what arrangements were made for the two men nor where they are.

Line to take

7. It was a murky incident. Government was not involved at the time nor since. The PMG should refrain from substantive comment on the incident other than to deplore the fact that PIRA's actions can produce situations like this in which the community is put under stress. He can welcome the fact that in this incident people were not prepared to be dictated to by PIRA and that the incident seems to have ended without bloodshed.

(SIGNED)

D G McNEILL
Political Affairs Division
SH Ext 2238

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