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ASST SEC 17 AUG 1993

MM 343/8 From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



HEAD OF THE RUC
10485
13 AUG 1993
RUC SERVICE

- PS/Secretary of State (B+L)
- PS/Sir John Wheeler (B+L)
- PS/PUS (B+L)
- PS/Mr Fell
- Mr Steele
- Mr Williams
- Mr MacCabe
- Mr Leach
- Mr Marsh
- Mr Cooke
- Mr Perry
- Mr Rogers
- Mr McCaffrey 505/00477/93

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 Shankill Road
 BELFAST

12 August 1993

*Mr McCaffrey -
for file
16/8*

Dear Mr McCreedy,

Thank you for your letter of 26 June 1993 about the police decision to serve a re-routing Order on the Whiterock Parade on 26 June 1993. Your letter was passed to Sir John Wheeler, Minister with responsibility for security, and he has asked me to reply.

The Secretary of State has made clear on a number of occasions that the RUC is, under the law, responsible for considering whether public processions are likely to result in serious public disorder, damage, disruption or lead to intimidation. Where a senior police officer believes that such consequences may arise from a particular parade, he may give directions imposing conditions on it, including conditions as to the route. Ministers have no power, or will, to interfere in this process. Furthermore, despite comments to the contrary from some quarters, the Irish Government does not have the power either.

The police, as a result of local negotiation with organisers and other interested parties, only very rarely have to issue re-routing orders. Where, however, they judge that a parade, involving either side of the community, is likely to result in serious public order problems, then they have a duty and a responsibility to act.

Yours sincerely

N S C HOEY
 Private Secretary to The Rt Hon Sir John Wheeler DL MP

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