

FROM: WALTER MYLES
Security Policy and Operations Division
3 September 1996

UNDER/ SEC 2567.
-4SEP1996
CENT SEC

ASST/ SEC
-5 SEP 1996
C.C.R.U.

PA-057/96

u/9

Mr. Carson.

Don. J. ...

S. 5/9.

- cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mrs Brown - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Hill - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Clarke o/r
Ms Todd - B

In copy 5-9
S. 5/9.
Not copy
A

1. Mr Maye [IM 4/9]
2. PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

MINISTER'S CASE: SOS/535/96 - COUNCILLOR JIM RODGERS RE THE PARADES REVIEW BODY S/9.

Jim Rodgers, an Ulster Unionist Party representative on Belfast City Council wrote to the Secretary of State on 13 August to express his deep concern at the appointment to the Review body of the Very Reverend Dr John Dunlop.

2. Mr Rodgers claims that Dr Dunlop is not the type of person who should have been chosen to sit on the team, citing Dr Dunlop's views on the loyal Orders, his support of the dropping of the playing of the National Anthem at Queen's University and his liberal and ecumenical views as the reasons for his unsuitability.

3. In closing, Mr Rodgers has advised the Secretary of State that regardless of what the Review Team recommend the people of Northern Ireland will decide where and when marches take place.

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This type of allegation was made during the formal launch of the work of the Review Team and I have used some of Dr Dunlop's own words to reply to Councillor Rodgers. The draft reply also encourages him to await the outcome of the Review before decrying its recommendations.

(SIGNED)

WALTER MYLES

Ext 27032

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~~DRAFT~~ LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

Councillor Jim Rodgers
c/o Member's Room
City Hall
BELFAST
BT1 5GS

JR/LO

September 1996

Thank you for your letter of 13 August in which you expressed your concern at the appointment to the Parades Review body of Dr Dunlop.

As a result of the serious disorder we all witnessed at a number of parades this year the Government announced a review of the current arrangements for handling public processions and open-air public meetings in Northern Ireland and the associated public order issues.

In announcing the review the Government was delighted that Dr Dunlop and Father Crilly were able to accept the invitation to sit on the Review Team, bringing their knowledge and experience of Northern Ireland's affairs, and their personal qualities, to the very important task of considering a satisfactory solution to the continuing problem of disorder and disenchantment over some parades.

The Government believes these church leaders have the respect and trust of the communities they represent and, as Dr Dunlop has made clear, an understanding of the depth of feeling in their respective communities. Having taken account of the evidence they receive, from all interested groups or persons, and within the specific terms of reference, the body will be free to make recommendations.

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It is the Government's belief that no member of the team, including Dr Dunlop, will approach their task encumbered by pre-conceived ideas and all were chosen because of their personal qualities and proven track record.

We all, I am sure, await eagerly the recommendations of the Team and hope you will take the opportunity to present your views to them.

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