

RESTRICTED

FROM: [REDACTED]
Security Policy and Operations Division
10 July 1998

cc See distribution list

PS/Secretary of State (B&L)

SITUATION REPORT - SECURITY SITUATION, 0630 - 1200 HOURS, 10 JULY

Summary

Following a night which saw the worst violence of the stand-off to date at Drumcree and a relatively quiet night throughout the rest of Northern Ireland, things have been typically quiet this morning.

Incidents this morning

Hoax devices have been cleared by the Army ATO at the junction of Balmoral Avenue/Lisburn Road and at Stranmillis/Malone Road at 1000 hrs. The Belfast Telegraph offices in Royal Avenue had been evacuated following a telephone bomb warning, but this has now been declared a hoax.

The roads situation has been detailed below. The main difficulty was on the Armagh-Portadown road on the roundabout north of Richill where around 100 cars and 500 people gathered. This has now been cleared. Small crowds continue to gather sporadically to block roads but disperse after a short time eg Springfield Road and Portadown earlier.

We are receiving reports of a 200 car convoy carrying food supplies heading for the Garvaghy Road.

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MB/26074

RUC injuries from Drumcree last night

Four RUC officers sustained serious injuries from a blast bomb and have been detained in hospital. The shrapnel injuries have mainly been to their legs although one officer has a serious shoulder injury. Another officer is in hospital having sustained an injury to his mouth and fractured cheekbone, he was hit by a ballbearing which appeared to have been fired from some sort of weapon.

Increased protection at Drumcree

Extra wire and concrete blocks are being used at Derrycanville Road and Ashgrove (this area is subject to controlled access). Drumcree Bridge is being strengthened and extra wire laid.

Looking forward

A funeral is due to take place at Drumcree Church on Sunday. I understand the deceased had Orange Order connections. The remains are due to leave Bridge Street at 0830 hrs and the service is scheduled at 1400 hrs with burial at the adjoining graveyard.

Application for judicial review - Ormeau Road parade

The application was not successful this morning. Mr Rice from LOCC stated on Sky TV that the applicant intended to appeal this decision.

RUC Statistics (Not for public release and subject to amendment)**From 0600 4 July 1998 to 0600 10 July 1998**

Attacks on security forces	550 (including 15 shootings and 33 bombings)
Arrests for public order offences eg Riots/Disorder	151

Hijackings	166
Petrol Bombing Incidents	548
Petrol Bombs recovered	1910
Criminal damage to homes	103
Criminal Damage to other buildings	133
Criminal damage to vehicles	367
RUC officers injured	53
PBRs fired	216

NI Departments

Civil Service Staffing

Figures will be included in this afternoon's report.

DOE (NI)

Marshallstown Road, Carrickfergus remains closed. Stone Bridge, Richill and Portadown Road, Tandragee blocked by protesters as are the Movilla Road and Comber Road, Newtownards and Bridge Street, Comber.

Transport

Air and sea ports operating as normal.

Rail services normal except for cross border services. Passengers continue to be bussed from Belfast to Dundalk.

Bus services suspended in Carrickfergus, other services subject to variation or diversions.

Housing

Northern Ireland Housing Executive report two families reported homeless as a result of intimidation.

Fire Brigade

The Fire Brigade attended 225 incidents of which 99 were civil disturbance calls, an increase of 52% on the previous 24 hours.

Manufacturing

Some instances of intimidatory phonecalls; absenteeism on evening and night shifts.

Retail sector

M&S trade started well but dropped off during the day and the Belfast Store closed early. Aggregate turnover for its five stores for the week will be down by three quarters of a million pounds.

Tourism

Hotel bookings continue to be very low and cancellations now being received into August. On a positive note planned visits by tour operators this week were carried out without incident.

Health

Following a bomb warning at 4.00am the neo-natal unit at Craigavon hospital had to be evacuated and 10 babies relocated for a period. Ambulance control centre also evacuated.

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