

List of the principal meetings and other events connected with
the Free Presbyterian Church during September, 1968

1. At 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 3rd September, Rev. Paisley and party arrived at Aldergrove on their return from a visit to the United States.
2. On the evening of Saturday, 7th September, three events, under the auspices of the Ulster Constitution Defence Committee and the Ulster Protestant Volunteers, took place in south Derry. The first was an initiation ceremony of local Ulster Protestant Volunteer members in Curran Orange Hall at which the initiating officer was the Rev. Ian Paisley. The proceedings, which were in private, commenced at about 6.00 p.m. and lasted for about half an hour.

The second event was a parade of Ulster Protestant Volunteer divisions, with bands, through Tobermore Village. About 450 persons, the majority wearing Ulster Constitution Defence Committee sashes, took part in the parade accompanied by eight bands. Rev. Paisley and other F.P. Ministers were prominent in the parade. After parading the village the procession returned to the starting point at Desertmartin Road, Tobermore, where they re-embarked on their respective buses and private vehicles and drove to Tobermore Road, Maghera, the assembly point for the main event of the evening, a parade through Maghera. About 800 persons, with ten bands, took part in the parade in Maghera. It commenced at about 8.00 p.m. and traversed the following streets - Hall Street, Coleraine Road, O'Hara Road, Grove Terrace, Station Road, Lower Main Street, Tobermore Road via Hall Street and thence to the field on the outskirts of the town. Notices under Section 2 of the Public Order Act (Northern Ireland) 1951 had been served on the organisers of the parade and persons in charge of contingents restricting the parade to a certain route and excluding it from entering Fair Hill, Glen Road and a portion of Main Street between the Glen Road and the Post Office corner. The area from which the parade was excluded is predominantly nationalist. The organisers and other persons complied with the directions and the parade passed over without incident.

Acting as Chairman the Rev. Paisley, speaking without amplifying equipment and in darkness, addressed a crowd which amounted to about 3,000 persons. He referred to the Civil Rights march in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, on 24th August and to a Unionist meeting held in Killyman Orange Hall at which the Unionists decided to allow the Civil Rights march to take place. He added that Mr. John Taylor, M.P., was present at this meeting. He went on to refer to the activities of the south Derry (Maghera) Branch of the Unionist Association in endeavouring to oppose this loyalist parade through Maghera and their meeting with local Nationalists for this purpose. He described these Unionists as "Lundies" and said the day would come when they would be thrown out. Mr. Paisley condemned the Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs for receiving the "murderer" Mr. Jack Lynch and went on to condemn Mr. Kevin Agnew's recent remarks regarding Civil Disobedience and "Orange bigots". At the close of his address, which lasted some 20 minutes, he was presented with a bible by a local member of the Ulster Protestant Volunteers. The proceedings closed at 9.30 p.m. with the singing of the National Anthem. The persons attending the meeting dispersed with the exception of Knockloughrim Accordion Band, which formed up in the "field" at 10.30 p.m. and led by Rev. McCrea of the Free Presbyterian Church marched to the Belfast Road via Hall Street and Lower Main Street. Rev. McCrea gave the impression he would have supported any suggestion to march into the prohibited part of the town and adopted a most arrogant attitude. During the demonstration a number of well-known Republicans were seen in the Nationalist area of the town but at no time did they come near the processional route nor did they assemble in such a way as to give rise to any concern. There has been no local reaction on either Unionist or Nationalist sides since the holding of this parade.

3. In the issue of the Protestant Telegraph, dated 21st September, it was stated that Rev. Paisley is to commence a daily round-the-world broadcast on 3rd November. His address will be carried on a short wave radio station, situated at Radio Park Heights, Red Lion, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
4. On Thursday, 26th September, Captain William Agnew, Kilkeel, left for Canada to make final arrangements for the return voyage of the Clyde Valley. He was seen off by Rev. Paisley who said a mass demonstration is being arranged in Larne to greet the vessel. From Larne the Clyde Valley will go to Carrickfergus to be restored to her original appearance. She will then tour various ports in Northern Ireland, finally being established as a museum piece, probably in Carrickfergus. The vessel may also visit Glasgow and Liverpool.
5. On Saturday, 28th September, the Lord Mayor of Belfast gave a Civic Reception to the Down Football Team, the all-Ireland Gaelic champions. As the team members arrived at the City Hall a small number of Rev. Paisley's supporters boomed and sang the National Anthem and "The Sash". Mrs. Paisley protested to the Lord Mayor about the reception.