

E.R.

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Hampton

PAB/1003/BN

7 OCT 1985
3462

*Minister has seen so
you may wish to retain
ed.*

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

- cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B)
- PS/Ministers (L&B)
- PS/PUS (L&B)
- PS/Mr Bloomfield
- Mr Stephens
- Mr Brennan
- Mr Chesterton
- Mr Merifield
- Mr Carvill
- Miss Elliott
- Mr Bell
- Mr Ehrman
- Mr Blackwell

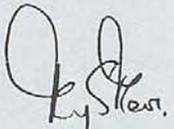
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 PS/MAIL OFFICE
 -4 OCT 1985
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 DEPT OF THE TROOPERS (N.I.)

During the course of a visit to Londonderry yesterday, I called upon [redacted] who is now running a community work group in the outskirts of the city. Although [redacted] has now severed his links with paramilitary organisations, there is no doubt that he still has a large number of contacts with those people. During the course of the meeting we discussed the possibilities of a repeat of the 1974 UWC strike - of which he was one of the main leaders.

[redacted] felt that it would be difficult for loyalist politicians and/or the UDA to mount a successful repeat of the 1974 experience. At present, he detected no signs of an organisation being created amongst his former colleagues in the UDA and he doubted whether there was anyone of sufficient leadership quality to be able to pull together a successful group. He also doubted, in the absence of a clear physical 'target', whether loyalist paramilitary groups would be able to mobilise sufficient support within the community. In 1974 his cause had been helped by the fact that there was a locally-based institution which they could campaign and demonstrate against. The lesson he drew from the 'failure' of the UDA's campaign in 1977 was that they directly took on the British Government. He thought that in current circumstances, members of the majority community would find it difficult to support violent action against members of 'their' security forces when the target for the demonstrations and strikes would be the Government itself.

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Nonetheless, was in no doubt that there would be attempts to whip-up sufficient anxiety and fear in the majority community to attempt to bring people on to the streets and to man barricades etc. He thought that, in practice, we would be faced by a series of local incidents and demonstrations rather than by a co-ordinated Province-wide campaign. There were still a number of 'families', particularly in the North-West, who could bring small village communities out in support of their objectives. He also had no doubt that unionist politicians would attempt to whip-up the atmosphere. They had gone so far in their public statements and utterances that they were now virtually committed to attempting to generate wide spread civil disorder in support of their declared political objectives. He did, however, express some scepticism as to whether the loyalist paramilitary organisation would follow the lead of the politicians. The paramilitaries had been let down too often in the past to follow tamely behind the lead of Messrs Paisley and Molyneux.



R S REEVE

Political Affairs Division

3 October 1985