

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Wilson
Central Secretariat

cc Mr Spence

new 10/77
my Hughes.

for Buchanan

LOYALIST DECORATIONS

Your minute of 8 July refers. My information is that Loyalist bunting was erecting both inside and outside the factory. The management removed the bunting from inside the factory but, as you say, are powerless to get rid of the remaining decorations which are fixed to BT poles outside the works.

2. The RUC view is that they would not be justified in removing the bunting for public order reasons. The presence of the bunting does not represent a threat to peace and good order. Indeed, if they sought to remove it they would probably provoke a fierce reaction from local Loyalists and would find themselves in a rapidly escalating situation. However, they have discreetly informed BT that if they would like to get rid of the bunting from their property, the RUC will provide cover. But the initiative must come from BT whose property it is that has been affected.

3. Nobody has been arrested or apprehended by the RUC in connection with the matter. That part of your information is mistaken.

4. All we can say to the Irish is that decisions about flags and bunting depend upon the degree of community provocation and the risks of there being a breach of the peace. These decisions are for the operational judgement of the RUC who do not feel justified in removing the decorations at Agivey.

(signed)

S G HEWITT

Law and Order Division

11 July 1988

E. D.

CONFIDENTIAL

RW/32/88

cc. Mr Spence

Mr S Hewitt

LOYALIST DECORATIONS

1. The Irish side of the Secretariat have expressed concern about the display of loyalist bunting allegedly erected outside the Lovell and Christmas factory at Agivey near Ballymoney. Apparently the bunting is displayed on British Telecom poles and the Catholic members of the workforce (approximately half of the 120 employees) have taken great exception to passing through this bunting to enter the factory premises. I understand that the Roman Catholic workers have refused to go into the factory but there has been no mention of this in the local media.

2. It appears that a local Councillor (Councillor Dallet) has raised the matter with the management of the factory and British Telecom but the latter apparently do not wish to get involved and the former are to all intents and purposes helpless. My point in writing to you, however, is that we have been told that the RUC allegedly apprehended a number of people who were erecting the bunting and I wonder if you have any further information on any police action in respect of the matter, and its possible resolution. Is there anything that we can say to the Irish in this respect?

Sue & Hams

RW

R WILSON
Central Secretariat

8 July 1988

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