

FROM: J MCGIMPSEY

Security Policy and Operations Division

11 April 1996

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Legge - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Brooke - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mrs Collins - B
Mr Canavan 12.4
Mr McKervill - B
Mr Clarke
Mr McAleer - B

1. Mr Perry [NP 11/4]
2. PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B

MEETING WITH THE APPRENTICE BOYS - PARADES

For the meeting with Alistair Simpson, Governor of the Apprentice Boys on 13 April the Minister will wish to be updated on the potentially contentious Apprentice Boys parades (Annex A) and background information on the organisation. Speaking notes are also attached (Annex B).

2. In the event of media interest I have also prepared a line to take (Annex A).

Background

3. Mr Steele's note of 3 April which sets out the outcome of DCC Flanagan's meeting with the Apprentice Boys prior to their parade on 8 April.

4. The Apprentice Boys of Derry is one of the Protestant 'Loyal Orders': the Orange and Black Institutions are the others. It is based on the action of the 13 apprentice boys who slammed shut the gates of Derry against King James' army at the start of the siege of the city in 1689, crying 'no surrender' as they did so. Their main parade through Derry this year is on 10 August, celebrating the relief of the city; there is also a lesser demonstration on 14 December to mark the shutting of the gates. On the latter occasion an effigy of Colonel Lundy (who tried to negotiate a surrender of the city) is burned: the term 'Lundy' is now a common term used by Loyalists to describe someone considered as a traitor who betrays their cause. A person can only become a member of the Apprentice Boys following an initiation ceremony within the city walls, which is conducted in August and December each year (as far as I am aware it is a male only preserve). The organisation is sometimes also referred to as the APD.

5. The Apprentice Boys parades are generally not without incident. Serious riots followed the 1969 August parade and APD parades were banned in the early 1970s. Subsequent parades were not permitted to walk round the walls - part of the its traditional route - because they overlooked the (Catholic) Bogside: they were however permitted to do so last year, though there was controversy and confrontation as a result. APD membership is estimated to be over 10,000 strong.

[Signed]

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ANNEX A

PARADES WHICH MAY BE CONTROVERSIAL DURING 1996

(APPRENTICE BOYS PARADES HIGHLIGHTED IN BOLD)

DIV	DATE	EVENTS	FLASH POINTS
'A'	8.4.96	Apprentice Boys - Easter Monday	Ormeau Road
'A'	9.4.96	Junior LOL	Not clear yet on location
'N'	27 4 96 <i>Sat.</i>	Young Loyalists - Band	Castlederg (Rev Paisley in attendance)
'A'	28.4.96 <i>Sun</i>	LOL Orange Widows Parade to Ulster Hall	Ormeau Road
	1.6.96 <i>Sat</i>	Coronation Parade	As yet location is unknown
'A'	16.6.96 <i>Sun.</i>	LOL 119 Church Service All Saints Parish	Lower Ormeau Road
'D'	21.6.96 <i>Fri</i>	No 1 District LOL North Belfast	Duncairn Gardens
'B'	29.6.96 <i>Sat.</i>	No 9 District Whiterock	Springfield Road
'A'	30.6.96 <i>Sun</i>	Battle of Somme Parades Ulster Hall	Ormeau Road
'A'	3.7.96 <i>Wed.</i>	No 10 District Ballynafeigh	Maybe to Bridge only - Ormeau Rd
'J'	7.7.96 <i>Sun</i>	Drumcree and other areas	Portadown
'P'	11.7.96 <i>Tues.</i>	Local Band	Dunloy
'A'	12.7.96 <i>Fri</i>	Twelfth of July Parades	19 venues incl Ormeau Rd

DIV	DATE	EVENTS	FLASH POINTS
'J'	13.7.96 <i>Sat</i>	RBP incl Sham fights Scarva	Portadown & Lurgan
'A' P	10.8.96 <i>Sat</i>	Apprentice Boys Demo Londonderry	Ormeau Road Dunloy (App Boys) Londonderry
'A'	31.8.96 <i>Sat</i>	RBP Parades to Demonstration in Carrickfergus	Ormeau Road Dunloy
'P'	8.9.96 <i>Sun</i>	Orange Church Service	Dunloy
'A'	27.10.96 <i>Fri</i>	Belfast County LOL Parades - Reformation Service - Ulster Hall	Ormeau Road
'N'	14.12.96 <i>Sat</i>	Shutting the gates of Derry	Londonderry

10 Parades in total in Dunloy the potentially contentious ones are indicated. In all cases only lodge and one band.

ANNEX B

Speaking Notes

- Welcome the opportunity to have a general discussion with you about parades in Londonderry and particularly in light of last Monday's events.
- Regard the routes of particular marches as a matter for the police, the organisers and local people. Have no desire to interfere in that process, which has proved very successful over the years in defusing problems; and conscious that direct involvement by Government could escalate tensions. However, we witnessed disgraceful scenes on the Ormeau Road last week which all might to thinking people will condemn and I wanted to hear your views on how such incidents can be avoided in the future.
- Essential that common-sense prevails. By taking the lead on this the Apprentice Boys can be seen to take the moral high ground.
- Well aware of the sensitivities surrounding marches, and the strong feelings that can arise. We appreciate how difficult it can be to strike the balance between the right to march and the feelings of local residents.
- In recent years RUC have been very successful in policing away problems. Aware also of the behind the scenes efforts of march organisers and others in leadership positions. As a result controversial marches now narrowed down to 3 or 4 including Ormeau Rd, Portadown, Londonderry.
- Am concerned, as security Minister, that large-scale public order difficulties could occur unless wiser counsels prevail. Highly unwelcome at any time, but particularly when a

resumption of terrorism threatens. Also risks wider damage to community relations, and the political process more generally.

Anxious to prevent this: know how supportive you are of the security forces. Wondered what scope you see for making progress, and how this might be achieved. Is there, for example:-

- greater scope for direct dialogue between organisers and residents? If the particular spokespersons for 'community' groups do not command confidence, is there scope for others to be involved?

- Involvement of groups such as Mediation Network? Scope to build on their good work to date?

- Anything more the RUC, or HMG, can do to encourage compromise?

- Important at a crucial time politically that all those in a position to do so use their influence to resolve difficulties. Am meeting a range of contacts to try to establish what more can be done in this regard. Grateful for your views.

ANNEX C

Press Line to take

Meeting the leadership of the Apprentice Boys to discuss a range of issues, including the question of parades, and to exchange views. In view of the disgraceful attacks on the police which took place on Monday, clearly important that all those in a position of influence, whether politicians, community leaders or march organisers, do all in their power to ease terrorism and reduce the risk of confrontation. Have no doubt that the leadership of the Apprentice Boys share that objective. (To be discussed with the Governor following the meeting).