

PA-327/96

FROM: WALTER MYLES  
Security Policy and Operations Division  
24 June 1996

UNDER/ SEC  
24 JUN 1996  
ASST/ SEC

ASST/ SEC  
170/6  
26 JUN 1996  
C.C.R.U.

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 Steele - B  
Mr Watkins - B  
Mr Wood (B&L) - B  
Mr Perry - B  
Mr Clarke  
Ms McGimpsey

*W. Carson..*

*Don Fin..*

*S. 28/6..*

PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) - B

'TOUR OF THE NORTH' PARADE - 21 JUNE 1996

Following recent meetings and Ms McGimpsey's notes about the Tour of the North parade last Friday evening the Minister may be interested in the official (RUC) version of events.

Counter-demonstration

2. Before the biennial Orange Order parade had started approximately 200 protesters - a lot fewer than some had suggested - blocked the Cliftonville Road. The protesters, which included Gerry Kelly of Sinn Fein, were asked by the RUC to move off the road but refused to do so. They were then moved by the RUC using "minimum force" to clear the road to allow the parade to pass through.

Riot

3. When the RUC were attempting to clear the road scuffles broke out and a number of stones, bottles and at least 5 petrol bombs were thrown at the RUC. Sporadic incidents of this nature continued in the Cliftonville and New Lodge areas. In addition, stones were thrown at a Citybus, and a van, which was hijacked from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive by 3 men with scarves over their faces, was set on fire and pushed into the Antrim Road. The RUC dealt with these difficulties without the need to use plastic baton rounds.

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*Le Carson*

*McGimpsey*  
*S. 28/6..*



4. Two civilians, including a UTV reporter, and 10 police officers (including one female) were injured, although none are believed to be serious. Four people, one of whom was Gerry Kelly, were arrested for alleged public order offences. Kelly managed to escape from police custody. The RUC will continue a low-key search for Kelly to interview him about his involvement in Friday's protest.

#### Parade

5. The parade itself passed without incident along the agreed route.

#### Ensuing unrest

6. Following the disturbances in north Belfast there were a number of other incidents which may have been triggered by the scenes on the Cliftonville Road. At Woodstock Link, east Belfast, approximately 70 rival youths were fighting until the RUC moved in to disperse the crowd. Five people were arrested. At Bryson Street/Madrid Street approximately 35-40 rival youths threw stones at each other and approximately 30 petrol bombs were thrown at New Barnsley RUC station.

#### Other parades

7. The Minister may be interested to note that there were 19 parades in total on Friday. All were legal and the required notice had been given. Apart from the counter-demonstration at north Belfast, about which we had been forewarned, there was no disorder and no arrests.

8. Reproduced below are lines to take based on those prepared by Ms McGimpsey and attached to her minute of 19 June.

(Signed)

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**PARADES**Lines to take (regarding the routing of parades)

- Decision on the routing of parades remain an operational matter for the RUC.
- In reaching their decisions on the routing of particular parades, the primary concern of the police must be the maintenance of public order and safety.
- The RUC were responsible for policing over 3,000 parades last year and the overwhelming majority were peaceful and uncontentious.

Lines to take (if there is disorder)

- I was appalled by the disgraceful scenes in North Belfast.
- Such behaviour only serves to instil fear and terror into the ordinary decent people in Northern Ireland.
- Every right-minded citizen believes in the freedom to march and in the freedom to protest - peacefully and lawfully.
- The police deserve warmest congratulations and great credit for dealing so professionally with these disturbances at such a difficult time. Continue to have my full support in handling these matters.
- Urge all those with influence to think very carefully about the consequences of their actions and do all in their power to help the police maintain public order.
- Appeal to everyone to keep calm and take a step back before embarking on future action of this type.

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