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SECURE FAX

10 July 1990

For: James Farrell

From: Michael Gaffey

MARCHING SEASON: POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS

The following is a general outline of the NIO's view of potential problem areas over the Twelfth, in response to the paper handed over by the Irish side at the meeting on this year's Orange marches which was held in the Secretariat on 21 June. We had a further meeting with Peter Bell, of the NIO, today, on which Mr. O'Donovan has reported to Assistant Secretary Gallagher (Secure Fax 199, 10.7.90). This Fax should, of course, be read in conjunction with that report.

Belfast

Duncairn Gardens: The initial assessment of the NIO and the RUC was that the march on 22 June was handled successfully, with no public disorder. Mr. Bell stated, however, that the NIO had been particularly struck by the strength of Cllr. Feeney's letter to the Chief Constable and that it would have an effect on their planning for next year's march. [The letter was handed by us to the British side in the Secretariat with a request that it be brought to the personal attention of the Secretary of State].

Lower Ormeau Road: The British side stated that the RUC regard this as one of the more difficult potential trouble-spots each year. They feel that the main potential for trouble is when bands are returning from the field on the evening of the Twelfth. Following detailed consideration of the situation in the area this year, they have decided that, on balance, fewer problems would be caused by increased policing than by a decision to ban or re-route the march. They state that they will be taking appropriate policing measures to prevent trouble, both during the main march and when bands are returning home.

Portadown

The British side stated that this year's Church Parade on 8 July passed off quietly and that fewer police were required than last year. Their assessment is that the parade on the morning of the Twelfth to the railway station, at 7.30 a.m., will pass off without incident and will consist of bands and lodge members, with no "camp followers" who might be likely to cause trouble. They stated that, from a policing point of view, no problems were anticipated this year with the Garvaghy Road route. Following a lengthy discussion (reported on separately) of the principles involved in allowing the parade

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to pass through an area in which it was not welcome, when a more direct route to the railway station was available, Mr. Bell stated that the British side would wish to stress the commitment of the NIO and the RUC to the avoidance of disorder and violence and their determination "to go to great lengths to prevent it".

#### Lurgan

The NIO and the RUC are confident that there will be no particular problems in Lurgan this year.

#### Kilkeel

They accept that there are special difficulties in Kilkeel because of the 50-50 nationalist/unionist split in the town. The RUC are aware of the problems caused by lambeg drum "practice sessions" on the night before the parade and have come to an agreement with the Orange Order that the 11th night drumming will stop at 1.30 a.m.

#### East Derry and West Antrim

Rasharkin: No problems are anticipated this year.

Cullybackey: No problems are anticipated this year.

Garvagh: There have been problems in the past with bands regrouping informally late at night after band practice sessions. In recent years a number of Catholic housing estates have been attacked by such groups. The British side stated that the RUC had held meetings with Orange Order organisers to discuss the problem and are confident that, as a result, order will be maintained this year. They say that they agree that this is a potential trouble-spot and that policing requirements have been examined very closely in order to prevent any possible violence.

Agivey: The NIO have considered the problem of provocative bunting at the Lovell and Christmas Bacon Factory and are seeking ways of persuading those involved at local level to avoid provocative displays.

#### Derry

The NIO do not expect any problems this year. They accept that there has been very heavy, intensive policing throughout the city on the Twelfth in recent years but state that the RUC believe this is necessary to prevent the IRA from using the occasion to mount attacks.

#### Limavady

The main Co. Derry parade will take place in Limavady this year

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and the RUC believe that the numbers involved could rival those taking part in the Belfast parade. We had raised this parade specifically in the Secretariat on a number of occasions, referring in particular to the 11th night parade, which has been the cause of serious trouble in the past. A major concern expressed by local nationalists has been that the parade would pass through Irishgreen Street, where the house of the local priest, Fr. Donnelly, and the Catholic church are located.

The British side stated that the RUC have preparing for the Limavady parade for some time, confirming what Fr. Donnelly has told the Department. They stated that Irishgreen Street is on the traditional route for Limavady parades to the field on the Twelfth and that this has not been the cause of any trouble in the past. However, trouble has broken out when uncontrolled, "spontaneous" parades took place through the street on the night before the main parade. Last year, the RUC agreed with the Orange Order that if they took over the organisation of the 11th night parade, avoided Irishgreen Street and ensured that there was no trouble, they would be allowed down the Street in 1990. The Order took control of the event for the first time, on these conditions, and it passed off without incident. The police believe that, in these circumstances and in the interests of public order, they have no option but to allow the marchers down the street on the 11th this year. They stress that they are confident they have taken sufficient measures to ensure that there will be no trouble, either on the 11th or during the major parade on the 12th.

#### Magherafelt

The RUC do not anticipate any trouble in the town involving bands attending the Limavady parade. The British side stated that in recent years the AOH and the Orange Order have reached a "modus vivendi" in the town and, in general, avoid provocative displays by bands at sensitive locations

#### Newtownhamilton

The main Armagh parade will take place in Newtownhamilton this year. The RUC describe the town as 70% Catholic but the actual route of the parade as 60% Protestant. They anticipate no particular policing problems and are not aware of any potential difficulties.