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PA Parade '95

1st Hearing

Dr. 10/7/95

Weekend Events, 8 and 9 July 1995

Pa Beatings
(P.2)

COPY TO:
PST
PSS
MR. F MURRAY
MR. P TEAHON
MR. S. DONLON
MR. T DALTON

I. Orange Parade at Portadown

1. I was in regular contact with Fr. Eamon Stack of the Garvaghy Road Residents Group over the weekend. In brief: the RUC, in a late decision, ostensibly on the grounds of public order, moved to prevent the Orangemen from marching along the nationalist Garvaghy Road on their return route to the local Orange Lodge from the Drumcree Church yesterday morning. (Note: the march along the Garvaghy Road is a circuitous return route, (the obvious return route is along the way they came, which avoids Nationalist areas), is seen as unnecessary coat trailing and is an issue which we have regularly raised through the Secretariat). A stand off developed between the RUC and the Orangemen at a field near the Drumcree church which is still continuing. About 5 p.m. yesterday the RUC informed the local Nationalist community that even if the Nationalists dispersed from their demonstration site on the Garvaghy Road, the RUC had decided that the Orangemen would not pass. Local Nationalists consequently dispersed quickly and peacefully and, according to Fr. Stack there has been no friction with the RUC. David Trimble was present with the Drumcree parade as a marcher and negotiator. Dr. Paisley arrived late last night for a time and departed to Belfast to meet senior RUC officers.

2. This morning, Fr. Stack reported that the RUC's understanding is that the Orangemen intend to wait it out in the field until Wednesday and then try to join the Portadown feeder parade on the morning of the 12th. This parade also goes along the Garvaghy Road but at an early hour and although Nationalists are unhappy with the 12th parade their principal concern has been the Drumcree parade of yesterday. The fact that the Drumcree marchers may try to use the Twelfth parade to get through could

however, raise temperatures again. The RUC also indicated to Fr. Stack that

They had
unilaterally
offered

compromise to the Orangemen last night i.e. that the Orange leaders could drive down the Garvaghy Road. This was rejected. Fr. Stack indicated that the RUC decision to block the march has been warmly received by the local nationalist community and commented also on the good level of communication between the RUC and the local community and on the restraint of the local Nationalist community.

- 3. Loyalists paramilitary elements were seen on the fringes of the Nationalist estate yesterday but were moved on by the RUC. Last night, he understood that tenting and food were being brought in to the Drumcree field and less savoury elements were joining the Orangemen. In addition, a Loyalist disco/bonfire took place near the Corcrane Ornage Hall. (The Catholic house reportedly firebombed last night was close to this event).

II. Attack on SDLP Councillor, Hugh Lewsley

- 4. I spoke to Lewsley Sunday lunch time and conveyed to him the sympathy and best wishes of the Government following the attack on him. Lewsley expressed gratitude. He briefly summarised events as follows. Earlier in the week, he had criticised the Provos for an attack on a house in Twinbrook. He told me that the attack was in retaliation for a fight between one of the residents and a local Republican in which the Republican came off worse. Lewsley said that he was told shortly after he entered a Twinbrook pub on Saturday night that he would be got when he left. His injuries are basically bruising and a hairline fracture of the jaw. He has moved his children to his mother's house and proposes to take a holiday and lie low for the time being. He told me that he recognised two of his assailants, believes that the others were brought in from outside the area and has made a statement to the RUC.

raised the
me with SF
Sunday. He
sequently
as a statement
denying the
fact
SDP
10/7

Declan Kelleher

10 July 1995