

NORTHERN IRELAND INFORMATION SERVICERADIO / TV TRANSCRIPTPROGRAMME: NEWSBREAKDATE: Thursday 8 August 1996

file m

NEWSBREAK - THURSDAY 8 AUGUST 1996

(for ref: ltn of interview with police
(Haragan + Amner) + with pol. lead
of all (names) . ltn 8/8

APPRENTICE BOYS

The leaders of the three main churches in Derry have appealed for calm and moderation in advance of Saturday's Apprentice Boys' parade. In a joint statement, Bishop Seamus Hegarty, Bishop James Mehaffey and the Moderator of the Derry and Strabane Presbytery, the Rev Robert Davy, says they share the disappointment that talks didn't achieve a more satisfactory accommodation. Paul Doran reports:

The three Churchmen acknowledged the breakdown in negotiations but said some progress had been made and they wanted this to be built on with continuing dialogue. They called for calm and responsible citizenship in Derry and other towns where parades are due to be held this weekend, saying local sensitivity should be respected. Dr Seamus Hegarty had this to say about tomorrow evening's march organised by the Bogside Residents Association:

I think that anything which adds to, or has a potential of adding to, tension in the city at this time is certainly not helpful.

The three men said they hoped sense would prevail throughout Northern Ireland.

The Apprentice Boys haven't yet said whether they'll take action over the Secretary of State's decision but the DUP Councillor, William Hay, says there should be a strong, but peaceful, protest:

I think what the Apprentice Boys have got to try and do is to register as strong a protest as possible. I mean, there is a lot of anger out there, to register as strong a protest as possible and hopefully, hopefully, that protest will not spill on to serious violence on the streets here locally. And this is what the Apprentice Boys have now got to achieve because there

is serious problems out there for the total Protestant community.

Earlier the Secretary of the Police Federation, David McClurg, said although many public representatives are saying they didn't want violence, some of them seemed to be looking for areas where they can condone something happening. He said this was in contrast to the RUC who, he said, didn't want violence full stop.

JOBS

The Belfast engineering firm, Mackey, is creating almost 100 jobs with the construction of a foundry at Springfield Road. The venture will cost over £14m and will bring to over 500 the number of people employed in the group. And another Belfast engineering company, Thrige-Scott, is expanding its product range in a £1.7m project, which will also provide an anticipated 17 new jobs over 3 years.

Londonderry. I think that's a pity, and I think the Bishop today made the same point. But my issue is not to be judgmental, my duty is to simply look at a situation like this and say, do I anticipate serious disorder there, and how do I prevent it, and one of the ways is to sterilise that part of the Walls. Now, there are about 500m that would take about 200 policemen for a 4-day period, therefore I asked the Secretary of State for a ban where his powers are much wider than mine to actually hold it with civil
(interim)

Henry McDonald: But was there any consideration taken of the potential of this situation blowing up in allowing republicans to go back to violence? Was that taken when you had your discussions with the Secretary of State.

PAGAB/3250

Well, of course, all of those things are taken into consideration, but the principal issue was a go