



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Telephone: Portadown 330366

*cc'd Mrs Gallagher ✓  
C. O'Hara Mrs Collins ✓*

*see 6/5.*

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RECEIVED  
28 JUN 1988  
MINISTERS OFFICE

Mr Brian Lenihan, T.D.,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Department of Foreign Affairs,  
Stephens Green  
DUBLIN 2.

27th June 1988.

Dear Mr Lenihan,

We enclose a copy of a letter to the RUC about Orange Parades. We would earnestly ask you to do all in your power, through the Anglo-Irish Conference, to see that these parades are diverted from Nationalist areas. It is difficult to convince local Nationalists that the Anglo-Irish Agreement is bearing much fruit as long as these parades continue.

Yours sincerely,  
*P. Doyle*  
*D. Byrne*

Fr. Paddy Doyle, s.j.  
Fr. Brian Lennon, s.j.  
Br. David Byrne, s.j.

Enc.



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Sir John Hermon  
Chief Constable  
RUC  
Knock  
BELFAST

25th June 1988

Dear Sir John

RE: ORANGE MARCHES IN PORTADOWN

As I am sure you are aware that the Jesuit Community in Portadown has done everything in its power, over the past seven years, to build a relationship between the RUC and the Nationalist community in Portadown, based on mutual respect. Such respect, however, is not possible when the RUC allow sectarian orange parades through Nationalist areas. These displays are rightly seen by local Nationalists as an insult.

Last year, we understand, the Orangemen were offered Garvaghy Road on the Sunday before the 12th July and refused it because they were not allowed to march up Obins Street. There are as six times as many Nationalists living on the Garvaghy Road as Obins Street. We would, therefore, earnestly appeal to you that this parade not be allowed go down Garvaghy Road this year on the grounds that the Orangemen refused to accept it last year. To miss the opportunity of diverting this parade this year would mean that we have a much worse situation on our hands than we had last year and that would be a very grave mistake.

We would also ask you to re-route the parade on the morning of the 12th July. This parade is not even a traditional one since the traditional route was up Obins Street. The argument used by the Chief Constable, on one occasion, that Garvaghy Road is the quickest route from Woodside Estate to Corcrair Orange Hall is specious: the main street of the town is available and in any case the march last year was from Corcrair Hall, not to it.

We appreciate the efforts that have been made - at great cost - by the RUC over recent years to deal with this problem. We find it frustrating, however, that the cost paid by members of the Force is not bearing the fruit it should because some of these marches are still continuing.

Yours sincerely,

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Fr. Paddy Doyle, s.j.  
Fr. Brian Lennon, s.j.  
Br. David Byrne, s.j.

cc Chief Supt. Stewart