



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/97/18

Creator(s): Department of the Taoiseach

Accession Conditions: Open

Copyright: National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

4 July 1995

Mr. Breandán Mac Cionnaith
Garvaghy Road
Residents Group
Drumcree Community Centre
3 Ashgrove Road
Portadown BT62 1EU
Co. Armagh.

Dear Mr. Mac Cionnaith,

The Taoiseach, Mr. John Bruton, T.D., has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter, the contents of which have been noted.

Yours sincerely,

DELAN HOULSBY

Private Secretary
to the Taoiseach

ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir.....

TO: Gerry Cribbin *JGC 29/6*

FROM: Bridgeena Nolan

Re letter from Garvaghy Road Residents Group

1. The PRO of the above group wrote to the Taoiseach to ask for his support for a protest against the routing of an Orange march through their area.
2. Referred to the Department of Foreign Affairs for advice - recommended a simple acknowledgement. They will be in contact with the group shortly and will report on any further developments.
3. Draft reply submitted.

Bridgeena Nolan
29 June 1995

Garvaghy has been followed up. D. Kelliher met them & he has prepared a report on the meeting 7/7/95.

Garvaghy Road Residents Group
Drumcree Community Centre,
3 Ashgrove Road,
Portadown BT62 1EU,
Co. Armagh.
15th June 1995

Mr. Scobben
For advice please - the
letter has not been
acknowledged → *20/6*

Mr. John Bruton TD,
Oifig an Taoiseach,
Dail Éireann,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2.

Dear Mr. Bruton,

At a public meeting held in Drumcree Community Centre on May 10th, a committee of the above group was selected to express the opposition of the vast majority of the residents in this predominantly Catholic/Nationalist area to the continued routing of the Orange Order marches along the Garvaghy in Portadown. Over 1,000 people have signed a petition asking that the parade be rerouted.

Our aim is to build better relations in this divided town. Portadown is saturated with symbols of the Orange tradition during the summer months. The Nationalist/Catholic community need space to live freely. The Garvaghy Road, the heart of our area, is that space. Relations can only improve in the town if the Orange Order cease to march in this provocative and sectarian way. There is an alternative route. A voluntary change of route would enormously ease tension. With this in mind we have requested a meeting with the Orange Order last month but to date we have received no response.

We have also met with the RUC proposing this alternative route. We informed them that their role in forcing these parades through our area is a source of great resentment. Failing to get an agreed alternative route we have requested that the police use their powers under public order legislation to reroute all Orange parades away from the Garvaghy Road area. We have also appealed directly to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to intervene on our behalf.

In the event of these marches proceeding through our area, against the wishes of the residents, we will be organizing a peaceful protest. We are asking you, or your representative, to come and join this protest on Sunday 9th July. We would be grateful if you would also express your support in a letter to our group. Should you, or your representatives, wish to attend our protest please contact me at the above address as soon as possible or alternatively phone Eamon Stack at 01762-330366.

Yours sincerely

Breandán Mac Cionnaith

Breandán Mac Cionnaith (PRO)

Faxed to D/PA -
Declan *21/6/95*
Kelleher. *B.N.*