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Lin Corporation

Atha Cliath

City & Environment Department

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Great Strand Street.

1.
86066 Ext. - 145.
- DB/MF

6th April, 1977.

Mr. Liam Cosgrave, T.D.,
Taoiseach,
Dublin 2.

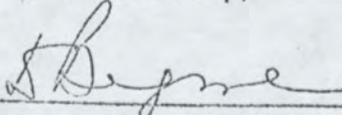
Dear Taoiseach,

Your letter of the 16th March regarding the removal of objectionable slogans from prominent public locations was referred to me as this problem is the responsibility of my Department in the city area.

I wish to inform you that the Cleansing Section of this Department now has a special squad employed full-time on removing objectionable posters, slogans, and other graffiti from public and private property around the city. I wish to assure you that each of the slogans in the sites mentioned in Mr. Corry's letter will be dealt with promptly by the Cleansing Section.

You will appreciate that this is quite a difficult problem to deal with as a rash of slogans can appear overnight throughout the city and it may take some time to deal with them all. However, you can be assured that we appreciate the importance of having them removed and intend to do everything we can to remove them as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



PRINCIPAL OFFICER.

Graffiti and Slogan-Writing

To each Manager and Assistant Manager

24 March, 1977

Dear Manager,

A circular letter was issued on 4 inst. (ENV 4/77) on the question of programmes and measures to promote environmental improvement locally. Special reference was made to graffiti and slogan-writing and the need to tackle problems in that area.

The Minister has taken a direct and personal interest in this matter. He is greatly concerned not only that widespread and obvious environmental damage is being caused by the defacement of property but that the prevalence of subversive slogans in many areas could have a seriously detrimental effect on tourism and investment prospects.

The Minister would appreciate it if each Manager took a personal interest in arranging immediately for an urgent programme for the removal from walls, bridges and buildings of graffiti and slogans, and especially subversive slogans, with a view to a clean-up of the most prominent cases, at least, before Easter, any others as soon as possible, and follow-up arrangements to deal with any recurrences.

I am to request a report by 21 April of progress in the local authority areas for which you are Manager. It is proposed that the item will be on the agenda for the quarterly meeting of Managers with Departmental officials on 28 April for a discussion on progress. The Minister intends to attend that discussion himself.

Yours sincerely,

E. J. Sheehan

9/10/78
BF 12/4

16th March, 1977.

Dear Jim,

A constituent of mine, Mr. Finbarr Corry of Colmbra, 48 Beech Park Drive, Foxrock, Co. Dublin, has been writing to me about the matter of the removal of subversive slogans from prominent public locations in the city and county of Dublin and also in some other areas throughout the country. I have passed on copies of his correspondence to your Department previously and further letters which I have received from him, dated the 14th and 15th March are now attached.

In view of the fact that the "Brits out Peace in" slogan appears to be very prevalent all over the country, I wonder whether your Department would consider issuing a circular to all local authorities urging the desirability of removing this and other similar type slogans wherever possible. Dublin County Council have already told me that they have made specific provision for removal of slogans from walls visible from public roads in their Roads Estimates in the current year. They point out of course that the success of the service will depend on the co-operation of the owners of the walls where such slogans are found.

I would be glad of your comments in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. James Tully, T.D.,
Minister for Local Government.

COIMBRA,
48 BEECH PARK DRIVE,
FOXROCK,
Co. DUBLIN.

Liam Cosgrave, Esq., T.D.,
AN TAOISEACH.

14/3/1977

Dear Taoiseach,

I was in the public library in Sallynoggin recently (branch of the Dun Laoghaire library service) and was annoyed to see one book on offer there, namely "Last Post", a subversive publication put out by a front organisation of the Provisional I.R.A. It refers to I.R.A. criminals as "soldiers"; and I.R.A. criminals killed during their criminal activities are described "killed in action" as if they belonged to a lawful military force. The copy of this book had been borrowed four times according to the date record inside. I feel that you should seek to have it and all similar subversive anti-State publications cleared out of the public library service in this Constituency.

The question of I.R.A. slogans is still annoying me very much and I have written a very strong letter on the subject to Bord Failte who are now spending vast sums trying to get British tourists here in order to have them insulted the minute they get here. Mr. Aidan O'Hanlon of Bord Failte replied and said that they fully share my concern at the toleration shown to these destructive slogans by the Local Authorities whose job it is to wipe them out the minute they are painted.

 I met an English businessman in Cork about three weeks ago and during my discussions with him he produced a dossier of Polaroid photographs which he had taken some days beforehand during a short motor tour of Cork and Kerry; he had photographed the most virulent I.R.A. slogans that he had come across and said that he was prepared to hand them plus £500 to a "freelance" journalist in Manchester in order to mount a huge "Boycott Ireland 1977" campaign in the U.K. press. He was the most angry visitor to this country that I have ever met; he was furious and said that the one thing that he could not stomach was the tolerance shown by the local authorities to these insulting and criminal slogans. This man is a millionaire in terms of property and business equity and he could easily carry out his threat even if it cost him thousands of pounds in "fees" to certain press gentlemen. I told Bord Failte about him and they agreed that he could spread havoc among the whole tourist industry, particularly in this Jubilee Year when the British are feeling more "patriotic" than heretofore. The question now is, will the Government consider legislation to compel the local authorities and property owners to remove subversive slogans at once?

The following slogans need removal:-

1. "Brits Out-Peace In" beside Baggot Street Bridge, facing the American International Insurance Co. Also, the same slogan on the West parapet of the same bridge.
2. Many I.R.A. slogans in black paint on Emmet Bridge, Harold's Cross. These must be removed as they are very offensive. Dublin Corporation has ignored appeals which I know were sent to them.
3. "Brits Out-Peace In" on both bus shelters outside Loughlinstown Hospital.
4. "Brits Out-Peace In" on toilet facing traffic entering Bray from Dublin direction. Just before Starlight Hotel.
5. "I.R.A. Provos" on gable end of house (beside plot of open ground) at junction of Harold's Cross Road and Armstrong Street. Near Emmet Bridge, mentioned at 2 above. This slogan has been redaubed after removal in 1976.

(6) "C.C. O'Brine (sic) is a traitour (sic)" on left-hand side of dual carriageway as you approach Stilloran from Dublin direction.

(7) Other subversive slogans still appear along the stretch of dual carriageway (on both sides) between the two sets of traffic-lights leading to the turn-offs into Stillorgan village.

(8) "Brits Out-Peace In" and other offensive slogans on parapet of Bridge where Suir Road meets Davitt Road. All traffic coming into Dublin from Naas sees these slogans most clearly. These have already been reported but I am quite certain that nothing has yet been done about them.

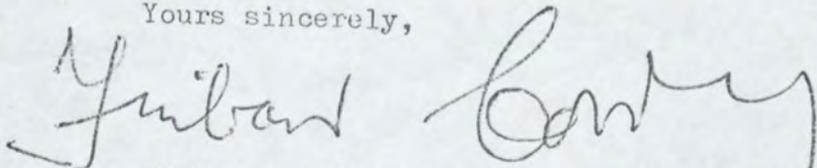
(9) "I.R.A." on G.A.A. grounds in Athy. Facing traffic coming from Dublin. Already reported.

(10) "Brits Out-Peace In" on wall opposite the "Goat Grill" bar on Kilmacud Road. This has been dealt with by the Dublin County Council but the degree of obliteration does not satisfy me. The slogan can still be clearly read.

(ii) "BRITS-OUT-PEACE IN" ON WALL OF DONNYBROOK POST OFFICE

Whatever you can do in regard to all the above problems will be much appreciated. I believe that you take a serious personal view of I.R.A. sloganising around the country, particularly at the start of the tourist season.

Yours sincerely,



Finbarr F. Corry

Constituent and member of F.G. Clonkeen Branch.