

E.P.

AJM/711/SB

MR Workington

To see &amp; return hl

MA  
8/1/85

8 JAN 1985

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cc PS/Secretary of State (L&B)  
 PS/PUS (L&B)  
 PS/Mr Bloomfield  
 Mr Brennan  
 Mr Burns  
 Mr Gilliland  
 Mr Carvill  
 Mr Abbott  
 Mr Reeve  
 Mr Lyon  
 Mr Hewitt, Liaison  
 Mr Bickham  
 Mr N Hamilton, DOE ✓

Mr Reeve

DERRY CITY COUNCIL: IIP RESOLUTION ON "BLOODY SUNDAY" PLAQUE

It is likely that this sort of motion will become more frequent after the May elections. We could have resolutions to erect a commemoration on behalf of a hunger striker, or to name streets or buildings after some nationalist, or in response Unionist, figure.

2. It will be difficult for councils with split membership to handle these matters. It may be that the legal position could enable the Clerks to the Councils to push the issues sideways, and I wondered whether any legal advice might be passed on this particular occasion to Mr Colm Geary. For example, there may be clauses under local government legislation which would provide some constraint on the council's freedom of action to erect a plaque, or more general legislation might be available which would ban such action on the grounds that it would be likely to cause public commotion. For example I would imagine that a plaque erected in the Guild Hall would make the Guild Hall a target for attack by some Unionists.

3. In the first instance it may be for DOE, with Central Secretariat, to consider this matter but LOB and others will clearly have an interest.

A. J. M.

A J MERIFIELD  
 4 January 1984