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Seol aon fhreagra chun:—  
(Address and reply to:—)

AN RÚNAÍ  
(The Secretary)

faoin uimhir seo:—  
(quoting:—)

All Missions



AN ROINN SHÓCÁI EACTRACA  
Department of External Affairs,

BAILE ÁTA CLUÁC 2  
Dublin, 2.

30-6-70

As you will know a perpetual feature in the escalation of tension to riot situation in the North has been the constant Orange parading. The Taoiseach has mentioned these provocative parades in his week-end statements cabled to you.

Last year there were in all over 1300 parades by the Orange Order and its various affiliates. A statement is attached. A great number of these parades cannot, in any sense, be considered to be traditional parades. In this context you will remember the remarks of the Cameron Commission on various bogus parades e.g. para. 42 on a supposed Apprentice Boys parade which the Cameron Commission found was not a genuine annual event but merely an obstruction tactic to prevent a Civil Rights meeting. See also para. 77-78.

The parade last Saturday which was the immediate occasion of riot, many deaths and great destruction of property was another such bogus event. It was held to celebrate the 14th (Sic) anniversary of the opening of an Orange Hall. It was in fact one of the many such "traditional" events which have been invented in recent years, with provocative intent.

The Orange Order has, of course, official connection with the Unionist party and government. The Unionist Council which controls the Unionist Party reserves one-sixth of its seats specifically for the Orange Order. It is difficult for a Unionist to receive nomination as a candidate unless he is a member and almost all members of Unionist governments have belonged to the Orange Order, as does Major Chichester-Clark (in this connection pages 34-36 of the Quaker pamphlet Orange and Green of which you have copies is informative).

The Cameron Commission para. 153-154 found:-

"That the Orange Order does in fact exercise influence within the Unionist Party does not admit of any real doubt. The moderate views expressed by highly placed leaders of the Order no doubt embody admirable aspirations, but here again, the further from the heights of leadership the less moderate the expression of view or exercise of power and influence. The purpose and ideal of the Unionist Party is both to maintain a Union and promote unity in a divided community. How, it may be asked, can unity be effectively promoted by a party in which divisive influences can still operate to such effect as the evidence which we have heard so amply demonstrates? These fears, beliefs, apprehensions and inhibitions all play and have for long played, a critical and unfortunate part in keeping alive and identifying sectarian and political divisions in the community and have undoubtedly provided a directly causative element in the disorders, disturbances and agitations which we are called upon to investigate.

We record the fact; what remedies for this state of affairs, if any, can or should be applied by wise and courageous leadership is a question which lies outside our terms of reference."

Yours,  
The Secretary

Orange Parades

(Stormont Report)

PARADES BY ORANGE ORDER AND KINDRED BODIES

9. Mr. Hume asked the Minister of Home Affairs if he will state **the** number of parades, marches or processions by **the** Orange Order, the **A**pprentice Boys and Black Preceptory **I**nstitutions which took place in 1968.

Mr. Porter: In 1968 the total number of parades, marches and processions by the organisations mentioned by the hon.

Member were:

Orange Order	...	933
Apprentice Boys	...	130
Royal Black Preceptory		279