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Draft for Taoiseach

Dear Mr. Guy

Thank you for your letter of 17th July which I have read with interest. I have particularly noted part of the charge given to each member of the Association on his initiation - "they thus maintained, inside Derry's walls, the resistance of the Protestants of Ulster against the powers of tyranny and bigotry".

This may have been a thought in the minds of the 13 apprentices of Derry but we are surely obliged to take into account the fact that the war in Ireland between William and James was only part of a much greater European war in which the then Pope was an ally of the House of Orange. I mention this, not in any spirit of debating a point, but in order to suggest that the defence of Derry in 1688 was no simple matter of Protestant v Catholic.

There is no difficulty for me in sharing your pride in the heroism of 13 boys in Derry a long time ago for what it was - a fine gesture of the human spirit in defence of a city.

There have been many examples of similar heroism elsewhere in Ireland and in the world since then. In saying so I take nothing away from the day you celebrate but it should be seen in perspective.

We are now in 1970. Whatever the rights and wrongs of your views or mine the fact is that your Demonstration is seen by the majority of the people of Derry as a political one.

If your Demonstration is intended to combat some self-inflicted notion of "tyranny and bigotry" in Ireland today - as you ~~say~~ ^{insist} in your letter - then it must be seen as a political act which wounds your neighbours to no good purpose.

I enclose a copy of the speech I made on 11th July. Please be good enough to read it carefully. I think you will understand from it that my view is that the major Irish traditions should determine to resolve their quarrel and get on with the business of creating an Irish society worthy of us all. This will be done by men of goodwill prepared to listen to each other and

discuss the future of Ireland with each other. This is your country and mine. We can make it a country of which we can both be proud and in which we both can take pleasure from the glories of past centuries - if we ~~simply~~^{but} decide to do so.

In this spirit I again suggest that your Association show your goodwill by cancelling your Demonstration this year in the interests of peace and harmony among and with your neighbours.

Yours sincerely

Mr. James R. Guy
General Secretary
Apprentice Boys of Derry
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Society Street
~~London~~Derry.