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OIFIG AN TÁNAISTE AGUS AN AIRE GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA
OFFICE OF THE TÁNAISTE AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

2/ July, 1993.

Mr. Michael McCooe,
Drumcree Faith and Justice Group,
211 Churchill Park,
Portadown,
BT62 1EU.

Dear Mr. McCooe,

I refer to your letter of 1 July concerning Loyalist parades in the Portadown area which I have noted carefully.

The subject of Loyalist parades is a matter which is discussed regularly with the British authorities through the framework of the Anglo-Irish Agreement and our serious concerns on this subject are well known to them. We have made clear that the Government remain committed to the position of principle, as recognised at the most recent Anglo-Irish Conference on 8 July, namely that the right to demonstrate should be exercised with respect for the rights and sensitivities of others and with regard for the maintenance of public order. In this respect the distress caused by these parades to residents in areas such as the Gervaghy Road is an issue of particular concern and one to which we will continue to pay close attention.

You can be assured that the position with regard to these parades remains on the Conference agenda and that the British authorities will continue to be made fully aware of the concerns which persist in this area, including with regard to the unsatisfactory state of affairs in Portadown.

Yours sincerely,

DICK SPRING T.D.

Dick Spring, T. D.,
Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs.