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ROINN AN TAOISIGH

Uimhir 3. 11. 99.

RECEIVED - 4 NOV 1999 SEEN BY TAOISEACH

Planned Orange Order Parade in Central Dublin, April or May, 2000

Ms Gilligan
For Taoiseach 3/11/99

Note

1. Ms. Patricia Williams received a telephone call from Ms. Clare Ennis of the Office of the Lord Mayor of Dublin. Ms. Ennis requested that I might phone her about a proposal of the Dublin/Wicklow Orange Lodge to hold an Orange Order parade in central Dublin next year.

2. Before responding, I asked Ms. Williams to establish from the Department of Justice what was the legal situation in regard to permission for parades in this jurisdiction. Ms. Williams spoke to Mr. Brendan Callaghan, Department of Justice who, after some research, advised as follows:

   (1) there is no legislation specifically dealing with parades

   (2) there is a constitutional right of free assembly, of which the Garda are very conscious and, other things being equal, they tend to seek to accommodate the wishes of those who wish to hold parades

   (3) the procedure is that the organisers of parades should consult the Garda Superintendent in the relevant area, who would deal with the traffic and routing aspects

   (4) parades could give rise to public order issues but in the absence of these, the Garda would, in general, aim to be accommodating.

3 I consulted Ms Alma Ní Choigligh, Department of Foreign Affairs, indicating the above legal position to her. Her view was that the attitude of Departments concerned with Northern Ireland should be one of strict neutrality.

4 I contacted Ms Ennis in the Lord Mayor's Office by phone. She gave me the information about the parade set out in the letters beneath which she later faxed to me. She noted that the Mansion House, not even the Round Room, did not have the space to accommodate the expected number of marchers for a service. She told me that the reaction of the Lord Mayor was to be welcoming to the marchers. We noted that the area on front of the Mansion House and up to the top of Dawson Street had accommodated large crowds in the past e.g. on the occasion when Nelson Mandela was given the Freedom of Dublin. Another possibility noted was that a small number of the Orange leadership could be greeted in the Mansion House.

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5 I outlined the legal situation as conveyed to us by the Department of Justice. I indicated that this Department's position would be one of neutrality. We noted that the proposed route was through rather genteel areas which might operate to minimise public order problems and that the relevant Superintendent was that at Harcourt Terrace Garda Station. As regards any question of facilities or reception at the Mansion House, we noted that as there was no specific approach or proposal, it was not necessary yet to take any view on this. I made the point that what might be thought appropriate would depend on the wider situation in regard to the Good Friday Agreement, peace and parades in Northern Ireland. If the Good Friday Agreement had been implemented, peace was being consolidated and parades in the North were not giving rise to serious tensions, one might expect that a parade in Dublin would pass off without undue objections or difficulties and that some facilities might be appropriate but if any of these conditions were unfulfilled the matter might require careful consideration.

6 I concluded by suggesting that the Lord Mayor's Office should refer the Orange Order to the relevant Garda Superintendent.

W. Kirwan
Assistant Secretary
3 November, 1999

cc Taoiseach,
Dr. Mansergh,
Secretary-General Teahon,
Mr Ansbro (Department of Foreign Affairs),
Mr B. Callaghan (Department of Justice),
Ms Ann Whelan

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An tArdmhéara Ró-Onórach
Comhairleoir Máire Ní Fhrithil

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor
Councillor Mary Freehill

A NUCLEAR-FREE CITY

Fax

To:	Mr. Wally Kirwin	From:	Clare Ennis
Fax:	6621972	Pages:	3
Phone:		Date:	3/11/99
Re:		CC:	

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• ***COMMENTS***:

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Dublin and Wicklow District

Loyal Orange Lodge

Secretary:

3a Northumberland Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.

19___

TEACHTA NA
28 OCT 1999
MHAOIR

Ian R Cox,
49 Flower Grove,
Killiney,
Co Dublin.

21/10/99

Tel: 01 - 2851639

Dear Mayoress Freehill,

Following our discussion earlier this year I have enclosed a letter to the Director of Traffic for Dublin. I have included a proposed route and date as well as an rough estimation of the numbers that will attend the parade. We would clearly favour a meeting with the Director of Traffic if that is at all possible, to iron out the details and times.

I have also contacted Rev Brian Kennaway regarding the plaque outside the Norwich Union on Dawson Street, and he has assured me that he will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

It is, due to the very nature of the Orange Institution, impossible to arrange a parade in Dublin this side of Christmas, so we are realistically looking at April. July is obviously out of the question!

As there are still problems between the Church of Ireland and the Orange Order I have no doubt that we would be refused access to our national Cathedral for a service at the conclusion of the parade.

Perhaps it may be possible for the parade to conclude in the Mansion House for a service. An outdoor assembly would pose too many problems, especially with our climate.

Thank you for your time and interest. All at Dublin & Wicklow LOL wish you well and look forward to making history.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Cox

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Dublin and Wicklow District

Loyal Orange Lodge

Secretary:

3a Northumberland Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.

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Ian R Cox,
49 Flower Grove,
Killiney,
Co Dublin.

21/10'99

Tel: 01-2851639

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Dublin & Wicklow Loyal Orange Lodge 1313 to inform you of our application to hold a march in Dublin on the second week of April in the year 2000. The lodge will be joined by members of the Orange Institution from Cavan, Monaghan, Donegal & Leitrim, as well as from England, Canada and Northern Ireland. An estimated 1,000 - 2,000 would be in attendance

We have proposed holding this parade in south Dublin city on the second Sunday in May, 2000. Our suggested route would begin at the RDS - to facilitate parking - and proceed along Northumberland Road, through Baggot Street, Harcourt Street and into the Mansion House. The return route would be directly back to the RDS via Northumberland Road. The Lord Mayoress has offered to oversee the Parade, possibly at its conclusion.

Our marshalls are very experienced and the lodges in attendance would be carefully picked prior to the parade. Clearly the above route is only a proposal and we understand there may need to be alterations to the parade. We trust if there are problems with the route outlined above, they can be looked at and overcome.

At present we are seeking the permission to hold this parade on the day in question and along the suggested route.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Cox

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