

Reference Code:	2023/154/15
Creator(s):	Department of the Taoiseach
Accession Conditions:	Open
Copyright:	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Closed.
21A

19 June 2000

Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

The Most Reverend Dr. Robin H.A. Eames,
Archbishop of Armagh,
The See House,
Cathedral Close,
Armagh BI 61 7 EE.

Mr Kitson
Mr Whelan
(Good reply)
5.7.00

Your Grace,

Thank you for sending me your proposals for discussion in the Drumcree impasse, which we have all been trying to resolve.

I do feel that any solution requires that all parties work with the Parades Commission, and, as is implicit in your proposals, that the Order obtain the consent of the community through which it wishes its members to pass. But it is difficult to see how that will be given, in the absence of the respect that is demonstrated by entry beforehand into direct dialogue, which can then extend to means of achieving an improvement in the whole atmosphere in Portadown.

As you know, the Apprentice Boys of Derry have a much better experience, because of their willingness to engage in dialogue and cooperation (of the type that is going on every day between Unionists and Nationalists in the Executive in Stormont). The threat of divisive scenes once again that reflect no credit on the Order is obviously very discouraging. I do not know how one gets across to people the need to adopt a more constructive approach, if they want permission to walk down the Garvaghy Road ever again, because it will not come about by force or by fiat.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Taoiseach

©TSCH/2023/154/15

©TSCH/2023/154/15

The Most Reverend Dr. R. H. A. Eames

The See House, Cathedral Close, Armagh BT61 7EE Northern Ireland
Telephone: Home (028) 3752 2851 Office: (028) 3752 7144 Fax: (028) 3752 7823
Email: <archbishop@armagh.anglican.org>

PA

FOR THE ATTENTION OF: The Taoiseach

FROM: Archbishop Eames.

Date: 9 June 2000. Total Number of Pages: 2

MESSAGE:

Dear Taoiseach,

Please find attached a set of responses which after much thought I have shared with the parties concerned.

Kindest regards and all good wishes.

+ RHAm.

INDEXED
13 JUN 2000
S2992/21

This fax is intended for the addressee named above. As this fax may contain confidential or privileged information, if you are not the named addressee or the person responsible for delivery of the message to the named addressee, please telephone (028) 3752 7144 immediately. The contents should not be disclosed to any other person nor copies taken.

(If any part of this transmission is not received please telephone the Archbishop's Secretary – (028) 3752 7144)

DRUMCREE : PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Portadown Lodges should parade to Drumcree Church by the approved route and following the service return to Portadown by the same route.

2. As the main body leaves Drumcree for the return to Portadown the following should be allowed to return to Portadown via Garvaghy Road :

   (i) Officers of the Portadown District
   (ii) One member of each lodge in the Portadown district.

   This group would undertake to walk in an orderly fashion unaccompanied by bands and rejoin the main parade in Portadown.

3. The Garvaghy Residents Association as a symbolic gesture of reconciliation would agree to the above on the firm understanding that

   (a) the group passing down Garvaghy Road would do so in an orderly and non-intimidatory manner.

   (b) The Portadown District would undertake to attend and be fully involved in talks on the future development of Portadown, those talks to include representatives of the Residents Coalition, the Council and the Churches and that those talks would commence as soon as possible after the events mentioned above took place.

   and

   (c) the talks would be presided over by an independent chairperson nominated by the British and Irish governments and agreeable to all the parties involved.

4. The Parades Commission would accept that agreement in principle to the above by the Portadown District and the Residents Coalition would constitute sufficient grounds for permitting the proposals in (1) and (2) to take place.

(The End)

©TSCH/2023/154/15