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FROM: J. E. Greeves, Ministry of Home Affairs, Stormont.

TO: W. Ivan Woods, Home Office, London.

Like Belfast and certain other towns in Northern Ireland, there are, in the City of Derry, certain parts which are the traditional preserve of one or other of the political parties or, perhaps to express it more accurately, of those who support the Constitution of Northern Ireland and of those who wish to see Northern Ireland absorbed into a United Republic of Ireland.

The Civil Rights Association, which, it is understood, is composed of members of the Londonderry Housing Action Committee, the Republican Party (which includes known members of the I.R.A. and Sinn Fein - two proscribed organisations) and the Young Socialists, gave notice to the police of its intention to hold, on Saturday next the 5th October, a parade starting at the railway station, which is in the Waterside part of the City, and processing through certain streets in the Waterside, over the Craigavon Bridge and via Abercorn Road and Bishop Street to the Diamond, where they proposed to hold a meeting. The War Memorial is in the Diamond, and the Diamond, and part of Bishop Street, are within the Walls of the ancient City.

Both the Waterside and the parts of the City within the Walls have for long by custom been sections of the City where Nationalists organisations, or organisations with similar political views, do not parade. The residents in these parts are largely Protestant and the police are of the opinion that, if the Civil Rights Association were permitted to hold their parade through these sections, serious disorder could well result. The Civil Rights Association is composed largely of persons opposed to the Constitution of Northern Ireland and, despite its title, is regarded by many - and rightly so - as having aims which are largely Nationalistic, although these are cloaked by other alleged pretensions.

In view of the disorder which might result if the processions, <sup>as originally proposed</sup> were allowed to take place, the police recommended that it should not be allowed to process through the two parts of the City mentioned above, and accordingly the Minister made an Order prohibiting the holding of all processions and meetings in those two parts of the City on Saturday next. There is, of course, a large section of the City outside these two parts, and it has been made clear to the organisers of the procession that they are free to hold processions and meetings anywhere in the City apart from the two parts mentioned.

Another complication is an arrangement made some considerable time ago for a party of some fifty members of the Liverpool Branch of the Apprentice Boys to travel to Londonderry on Saturday next. They are coming over for the initiation of new members (which under the rules of the organisation must take place within the City Walls) and they originally intended to travel by train from Belfast to Londonderry, arriving at approximately 3.30 p.m. - the time when the Civil Rights

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Association procession proposed to move off from there. The local members of the Apprentice Boys proposed to meet the Liverpool contingent at the station and to process along part of the route which the Civil Rights Association intended to follow and then to their Headquarters, which is in Society Street - off Bishop Street - and within the Walls. It has been learned this morning, however, that the Liverpool contingent will now travel from Belfast to Londonderry by car and thus avoid any clash.

It has been suggested that the parade proposed by the Apprentice Boys was arranged merely as a counter-demonstration, but the police are emphatic that this is not the case. The initiation of new members from Great Britain is an annual event and it is customary for the visitors to be met at the railway station by local members and normally to parade from there to Society Street.

Apart from the proposed parade by the Apprentice Boys (now called off) the police have received numerous complaints from law-abiding residents in the areas now prohibited under the Minister's Order, protesting in the strongest possible terms against the proposed procession by the Civil Rights Association.