

Mr. Cubbon

The Home Secretary will wish to be aware that there is some serious apprehension at Stormont about the events likely to take place at the end of the civil <sup>visits</sup> march from Belfast to Londonderry. There was trouble last night at Maghera. This did not involve the marchers; but rival crowds of Protestants and Nationalists caused damage and attacked the police, who were obliged to charge the crowd with drawn batons. To-day the march passes through territory sparsely populated, and if anything Nationalist in sympathy. However, Mr. Paisley has booked the Guildhall at Londonderry for a meeting tomorrow, and Major Bunting his lieutenant, has announced his intention of "trooping the colour", as he puts it, which evidently means marching the Union Jack through the Roman Catholic area of Londonderry in as provocative way as possible. No suggestion was made to us that the police would require additional help. The Minister of Home Affairs has been resisting suggestions that the march should be stopped. We have arranged to be kept closely informed of developments tomorrow.

*ARC*  
3rd January 1969

*Copies &  
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Sir P. Allen.*

Home Office  
Whitehall