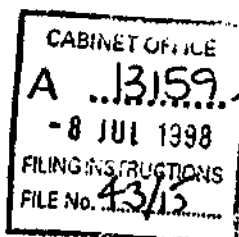




10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary



7 July 1998

*Dear Sir,*

**MEETING WITH ORANGEMEN: 9 JULY**

As I mentioned to you on the phone, the main point of the meeting with the Orange Order on Thursday will be to make it clear to them that they cannot go down the Garvaghy Road unless there is agreement with the residents first. This will obviously not be a welcome message, and it needs to be made more palatable if the Orange Order are to be kept on board for a compromise.

Our thinking is therefore that the Prime Minister should aim to say that:

- he is confident there will be a parade down the Garvaghy Road next year and believes effective guarantees of this can be given if the rest of the package is right;
- he believes that an acceptable civic forum must be part of this package, and that effective guarantees will be needed for this too;
- as part of a package he is prepared to ask the residents if they will invite some form of march to go down this year, although he cannot guarantee success.

The Prime Minister also needs to be in a position to offer something positive to the Orange Order in the wider context, or at least to hint at this. For example, we should take items from the CBMs list given to us by [REDACTED] last week. The Prime Minister could say:

- we recognise that there are ways in which the Orange Tradition can be effectively promoted, eg through the Ulster Scots tradition, the Culture and Tradition Group and public funding for projects such as mid-Armagh Community Networks. We are ready to look at help in all these areas if the context is right;

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- readiness to help Protestant farmers in border areas driven off their farms, as recommended by Bloomfield;
- consideration of derating of Orange Halls in the context of the Rates (Amendment) Northern Ireland Order;
- consideration of extending council damage claims to Orange Halls in the context of future legislation.



You may well have better ideas than any of these, but if not the Prime Minister is keen to use at least some of the above. A reply in the course of tomorrow would be helpful.

I am copying this to  (Cabinet Office).

*Yours*



Ken Lindsay Esq  
Northern Ireland Office