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AN GARDIA SIOCHANA

Any reply to this communication should be addressed to:

Commissioner,
Garda Síochána,
Phoenix Park,
Dublin 8.



OIFIG AN CHOIMISINEARA,

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.

and the following number quoted:

CS(IL). 99/88.

The Secretary,
Department of Justice.

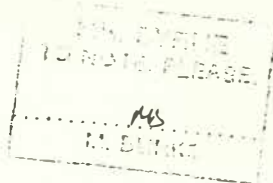
For the attention of Mr. W. Byrne

Progress Report - Ceremonies to commemorate the Battle
of the Boyne - June and July 1990.

Herewith report on above from Chief Superintendent,
Dundalk.

I will keep you informed of developments.

[Signature]
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT FOR
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER



Mr. Collins

*Mr. Dine
Mr. Byrne
24.4*

Telex of 27/3/90 (02846) from the Secretariat together
with material furnished by this Department on
5/4/90 refers.

*M. Burke
23/4/90*

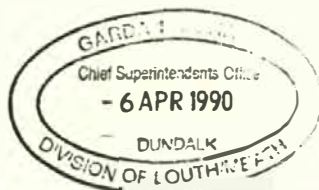
*C.C. Joint Secretariat
Mr. Anderson*

*[Signature]
24.4*

*C.C.D.
M.S.
24/4/90*

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CS(1L) 99/88.
PS. 338/87.
OPS. 30/5/89.
LM. 2554/88.



Assistant Commissioner,
"C" Branch, (Security).

Progress Report - Ceremonies to commemorate the
Battle of the Boyne - June and July, 1990.

- (1) Reference to my report dated 1st May, 1989, and your minute dated 18th May, 1989, I wish to report on progress to-date in the arrangements for the holding of ceremonies to commemorate the Tercentenary of the Battle of the Boyne at Oldbridge, Drogheda. As stated in my original report, the proposals are to hold two ceremonies - by the Independent Loyal Orange Institution on Saturday 30th June, 1990, and the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland on Saturday, 14th July, 1990.

Ceremonies by the Independent Loyal Orange Institution

- (2) I have had meetings with Mr. George Dawson, Imperial Grand Secretary of the Independent Loyal Orange Institution, on 18th July, 1989 on his own, and on 23rd February, 1990 with Mr. Cyril Glass and Mr. Samuel McConachie, Committee members. This organisation is mostly Presbyterian, associated with the Democratic Unionist Party (D.U.P.) and draws it's membership from County Antrim. It broke from the main Orange Organisation in 1903. The Rev. Ian Paisley, M. P., M.E.P. is associated with the Order but he is not a member. He has indicated to the Organisers that he will attend the ceremonies on the 30th June, 1990.
- (3) As a result of our discussions, preliminary arrangements were agreed and plans are being made for a group of approximately 250 of their members to assemble in Banbridge, Co. Down, on the morning of Saturday 30th June, 1990, to be conveyed in five buses to the site at Oldbridge, Drogheda. Some of the V.I.P.'s attending (Rev. Paisley and other Clergymen) will travel in cars and all will move in convoy under N.I.S.F. escort to cross the border at Killeen/Carrickarnon, on the main Dublin/Belfast Road at 12 noon, where the convoy will be met by Garda escort and taken to the site.

- (4) It was the intention of both Orders to assemble in the Boyne Park of National Heritage but this is not now available due to their failure to reach agreement with Mr. Jim Lynch, Cavan St., Cootehill, Co. Cavan, the representative of the owner, Mr. James Delaney, San Antonio, U.S.A. on public liability insurance for the use of the field. The ceremonies will be held on the public road, which will be closed by the Gardai, and on the bridge at Oldbridge and will consist of speeches, a short religious service and a symbolic crossing - by a man dressed as King William riding a horse - of the bridge over the river Boyne at Oldbridge. The entire ceremony is scheduled to last about 2 hours.
- (5) There will be no local participation in this event and it is not intended to allow members of the general public near the area of the ceremonies in the interest of preserving the peace and maintaining public order. After the ceremonies those participating will return to their buses and cars and be escorted directly back to the border where they will be met by the N.I.S.F.'s. Names of persons, lodges and districts of those attending as well as registered numbers of motor vehicles will be supplied to the Gardai in advance.
- (6) The organisers have established contact with the R.U.C. and I have nominated a Superintendent in Dundalk to liaise with them regarding the co-ordination of plans. Garda arrangements to police the ceremonies at the site and to ensure the safety of persons attending and the general public in the area and along the route to and from the border, are in hand and I have not yet fixed my manpower requirements.


Ceremonies by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

- (7) Initial plans by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to commemorate the Battle of the Boyne were outlined as far back as May, 1988, by a committee representing the Orange Order members in Counties Cavan, Monaghan, Donegal and Leitrim, and they envisaged bringing up to 30,000 of their members to the battle site at Oldbridge on Saturday 14th July, 1990. The organising of this event was apparently given to the members of the Order in the Republic with professional advice and assistance coming from the Northern members. Unfortunately those entrusted with the task of organising such an event had no previous experience in organisation on this scale and lacked organisational skill, resources and manpower. To complicate matters none of the organisers reside nearer than 50 miles to the site and all are separated from each other by similar distances. It was clear from the outset that this event would not be easy to organise and this is borne out in the present impasse that has arisen regarding a location for the ceremonies, which I will refer to in greater detail when I outline discussions between the Gardai and the organiser.

- (8) My first meeting with this committee was on the 29th June, 1989, with Superintendent J. Courtney, Headquarters at Cavan. The members of the Orange Order present were Adam Bustard, Screeve, Donegal; William Maguire, Sugarloaf, Belturbet, Co. Cavan; William Anderson, Ballintra, Co. Donegal; William Fay, Cullier, Shercock, Co. Cavan and William Mitchell, Greagholia, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan (Secretary). A broad outline of their plans to commemorate the occasion was given and they indicated that they were in discussions with Bord Failte, the Grand Orange Order in Belfast and Mr. Jim Lynch, Cavan Street, Cootehill, representing Mr. Delaney, St. Antonio, Texas, the owner of the Heritage Field at Oldbridge.
- (9) A second meeting was held with the committee at Cootehill on 21st September, 1989, at which details of Garda requirements were given to them to assist their preparations. A further meeting was provisionally arranged for November, 1989 to discuss progress but this was not held as the Secretary, William Mitchell, was having difficulty in securing a field at Oldbridge to hold the ceremonies. Numerous telephone calls to William Mitchell since then have failed to arrange a further meeting to discuss their plans. Mitchell indicated that he was unable to finalise arrangements as landowners in the area were asking exorbitant prices for the use of their lands and public liability insurance was too high.
- (10) The original plan for bringing up to 30,000 Orange members from Northern Ireland to the site has been considerably scaled down and is now estimated by the organisers at 5,000. Four landowners in the vicinity or general area of the site of the Battle of the Boyne were asked by the organisers for the use of their lands but all declined for one reason or another, but mainly on the question of public liability in the event of accidents or injuries involving persons attending. Lord Henry Mountcharles was asked recently for the use of lands at Slane Castle but he too refused for the same reason. There is also an underlying fear of intimidation from subversives or persons opposed to the ceremonies, although, I hasten to add, there is no reason to believe or evidence to show that such has occurred so far.

Local Attitude to Ceremonies.

- (11) There is practically no local interest in the area of the site or in Drogheda in the planned ceremonies. Drogheda Corporation, Louth County Council and Meath County Council have refused financial assistance to Boyne Valley Tourism(Drogheda) who are planning local events, cultural activities and historic exhibitions to mark the occasion. These events are being organised principally by Mr. Frank Godfrey, a Fianna Fail Councilor in Drogheda Corporation. He owns a tourist cottage/shop at Donore not far from the location of the proposed ceremonies. The theme of his involvement is one of peace and reconciliation. So far there has been no public comment from Sinn Fein or the representatives of subversive organisations in this general area regarding their attitude to the proposed ceremonies.
- (12) Plans have been drawn up by the Gardai to police the ceremonies by the Independent Loyal Orange Order on the 30th June, 1990. Consultations are continuing with the organisers of the ceremonies on the 14th July, 1990. My last contact with William Mitchell(Secretary of the Grand Orange Order) was by telephone to-day (6/4/1990). He told me that they had not yet secured a field for the ceremonies and they were trying to get the Land Commission to give them use of their lands at Townley Hall. They expected a decision from them soon and they intended to hold a meeting of their members on Easter Saturday to decide on the format of the ceremonies, after which they would meet the Gardai to discuss their final plans.
- (13) The position regarding the ceremonies on 14th July, 1990, is very unsatisfactory due to the procrastination and lack of organisation by the organisers. Garda plans are as a result impossible to finalise and unless a positive statement of their proposed plans emerges very soon, an ultimatum regarding the holding of the ceremonies as at present envisaged may have to be given and plans for a less ambitious ceremony agreed. I shall keep you advised of developments.



 (J. J. Nolan)
 Chief Superintendent.