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Title: Letter from HS Ó Dubhda [HJ O'Dowd], Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach, to Victor Beattie, secretary of the Number 3 District of the Orange Order, Raphoe, County Donegal, regarding Orange Order assemblies due to be held at Manorcunningham and Lifford, County Donegal.

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C.S.

3 Iúil 1970

A chara,

I am desired by the Taoiseach to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, in which you refer to Church Services of the Orange Order which are being held on Sunday next, the 7th instant, at Manorcunningham and on Monday, the 13th instant, (presumably) at Lifford.

I understand that these Services involve the assembly of the participants at a local Hall and a short march of a few hundred yards to a local Church and that no speeches in public form part of the ceremonies.

The Taoiseach would not condone any interference with such ceremonies, if properly conducted and he understands that the organisers keep in touch with the Garda Authorities, who give appropriate protection, if required. I should add that the individual referred to in the opening portion of your letter is not, of course, a member of the Government.

The Taoiseach understands that a number of Services of the Orange Order originally scheduled to take place in Donegal within the next week or so - including that at Rossnowlagh - have, in fact, recently been called off by the local Lodges of the Order. The Taoiseach readily appreciates the motives underlying the action taken in these particular cases, in the prevailing situation.

Mise le meas,

S. O DUBHDA

Rúnaí Príobháideach

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