

**Mr David Tweed**  
*on behalf of*  
**The Officers & Members of Dunloy Walker Club**  
**Apprentice Boys of Derry**

16th May 1997

Dear Prime Minister,

It is with deep regret that I must bring to your attention a serious breach in the freedoms and civil and religious liberties of the historic Apprentice Boys of Derry Club.

For over forty years the members of this Club have met in their hall in the village of Dunloy and marched the short four-minute walk to worship in Dunloy Presbyterian Church.

That expression of religious belief is carried out to publicly demonstrate our thanksgiving to God for His deliverance of our forefathers. Today there is an attack on our liberty to walk and celebrate our past and give expression to our beliefs.

The leader of IRA/Sinn Fein, whom the Speaker has now banned from the Palace of Westminster, is free in Northern Ireland to, in his own words, "Plan and prepare and exploit deliberately orchestrated tensions and disturbances" to prevent this expression of belief. He said: "Three years work went into creating this situation and fair play to those people who put the work in. These are the type of scene changes that we have to focus in on and develop and exploit."

You, Sir, have a duty to uphold and protect the rights of all the citizens of this United Kingdom. My Club planned to hold its annual parade and church service on Sunday, 18th May. We have kept the law. We gave proper notice to the Royal Ulster Constabulary, yet we find that we are to be put off the street by a concocted counter-demonstration by republican sympathisers in the Dunloy village.

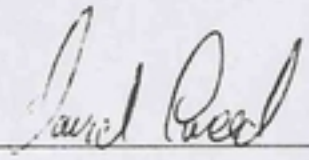
The police informed us of the counter-demonstration. We proposed to change the time of our service but that was not acceptable. We proposed to change the date of our parade and that was not acceptable. Every effort was made by my Club to reduce any area of dispute, including a restriction on members. All these efforts to find resolution were shunned. The Dunloy Residents Group claim they wish to speak with the Apprentice Boys of Derry and want the Club to seek their permission and consent to walk in the village. The Dunloy Residents are not the guardians of who can enter and walk in the village. They are not interested in tolerance at all, and have in fact shunned a meeting with the local Member of Parliament. Last November in a similar situation the RUC found a crate filled with petrol bombs which were to be used on the Protestant worshippers. The agenda is to promote a republican demand that loyalists seek consent from republicans in order to carry out their traditions. That intolerance is not on. No self-respecting person will bow to that dictatorship.

My Club respects law and order. We are not law breakers but neither will we allow our enemies to trample our rights into the ground.

This matter must be addressed urgently by your Government, otherwise it will fester and bring a summer of discontent and tension back to our streets. Please, sir, do your duty and ensure the rights of the Apprentice Boys and the loyal Orders.

Yours faithfully,

David Tweed

Please reply to   
Dunloy Orange Hall, Dunloy, County Antrim