**Item: AIB.APL.Z.251.1939.Redacted.pdf**

**Transcript**

June 12th 1939

Brian Hannigan, Esq.,

**[**redacted**]**

Dear Brian,

The Anti-Partition League was six months old on May 29th

1939, and I availed of the Council meeting last Thursday to submit

a Report covering the first half-year of its existence. The

apathy of our people towards the aims of the League was the theme

song of the Report and the general tone of my statement unavoidably

pessimistic. The justification for this you will realise when

I tell you the outstanding liabilities of the Organisation amounted

to over £87 on Thursday and that the receipt of a further £50

on Saturday under the terms of our guarantee will afford only

temporary relief. We have therefore been obliged to make a

second appeal for subscriptions to members of the Council.

Our failure to make satisfactory progress is due to a

number of factors and not least, in my opinion, the lack of direction

at the head, that is by lack of instruction as to how each member

of the Council in his or her own way and faced with his or her

own handicaps can help the movement. You quite properly stressed

at our early meetings in the Charing Cross Hotel and the North-

umberland Rooms the extreme importance of the Chairman’s work in

an Organisation such as ours and only accepted the invitation

to become Chairman with great reluctance. Indeed, it would be

no exaggeration to say that you protested strongly against your

appointment which you described as a stop-gap measure.

You will thus, I imagine find yourself in general

agreement with the following extract from my Report, which I

consider only fair to bring to your attention, though I should

add that the Council did not arrive at any decision on the matter.

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“The fact is that no Organisation of this kind can be run for

anytime without an active Chairman and we undoubtedly made a

mistake in forcing Mr. Brian Hannigan to accept the chairmanship

in face of his repeated protests. We want as Chairman as individual

who can spare some time for activities on League work, who is

capable of allocating tasks to individual members and who will

see that the tasks so allocated ate carried out. The present

anomalous position of an Organisation dependent on outside

financial assistance and still lacking a man at the helm must

be brought to an end and I think that no one would more readily

agree with this than the present Chairman, Mr. Brian Hannigan.

In the absence of a Chairman and of a Standing Committee, for

which I appealed in vain at the Council meeting on March 16th,

the tendency is to regard the Hon. Secretary or the Organising

Secretary as “the Uncle Tom Cobley and all”. This is unfair to

Mr. Barry-Walsh and myself. It is unfair to the League. I realise

that the selection and appointment of a new chairman will take

some time, but I hold that a continuance of the present position

should not be allowed and I feel sure that Mr. Brian Hannigan

will welcome release from a Giblertian situation where the

Chairman of a Council never takes the Chair at Council meetings”

~~though I should add that the Council did not arrive at any decision~~

~~on the natter~~.

Your sincerely,

Hon. Secretary,