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I had dinner with Mr Morrow, who is a Presbyterian Minister, in Belfast, on 15 June. He has been in charge of Corrymeela for a number of years. He does not minister in a parish as his job with Corrymeela is a full-time one. He has a brother who was elected to the Assembly for the Alliance Party. I would guess his own views to be probably Alliance.

He is under no doubt that significant changes have occurred inside Northern Ireland in recent years. It is in a political sense more polarised than ever but at the personal level there has been a large increase in the understanding of each for the traditions of the other. This growing awareness of the other's point of view has not been reflected in voting patterns, which people find it very hard to change even though they are prepared to, as it were, move out of the ghetto on other issues. He knew people who worked with him who, though fully committed to the ideals of Corrymeela, have voted for PSF. The only way forward is to take small steps and it is incumbent on the politicians to create an atmosphere in which that movement can take place. There is a need for each tradition to recognise the legitimacy of the other. In relation to the intentions of the present Irish Government it is important that the legitimacy of the British tradition must not be seen as limited in any way otherwise those who hold that tradition will find it much more difficult to accept the legitimacy of the nationalist tradition and of what the New Ireland Forum is trying to do.

Mr Morrow was very critical of the OUP though significantly he excluded McCartney, who is a friend of his, from that criticism. He thought there is no future for the Unionists until they accept the legitimacy of the minority aspiration in Northern Ireland and specifically until they accept power-sharing. He claimed McCartney knows that the OUP will not survive unless it moves in this direction.

He had been considering the possibility of reacting publicly when the Forum concludes its deliberations. He is now convinced of the necessity to have an input during the course of its deliberations. He said he will endeavour to put a group together for the purpose of making a submission to the Forum. He did not think Corrymeela per se would be able to reach agreement in a sufficiently short time

on the terms of a submission. He drew my attention to "Political Cooperation in Divided Societies", edited by Desmond Rea, being a series of papers read at a conference organised by Corrymeela in March 1981. In particular he thought that the analysis by John Hunter of the conflict in Norther Ireland contained in that book should be made available to the members of the Forum.

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D. Ó Ceallaigh

22 June 1983