

NOTE FOR THE FILE

DARBY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Present : Mr E Jardine
 Mr J Darby
 Mr A Hamilton

1. The meeting was held in Stormont on the afternoon of 30 May to discuss with Messrs Darby and Hamilton the community-based research projects which it was proposed they should undertake in relation to the Alienation studies. E Jardine outlined the general progress on the various Alienation studies and indicated that funding had been approved to undertake the specific duties on which Mr Darby would be responsible. It was agreed that the 3 possible community-based studies were
 - (i) the study of an integrated community;
 - (ii) the study of an isolated rural/border community;
 - (iii) the study of ^athe working class protestant community.
2. There was some discussion on the priority which attached of these and, while there would have been advantages in running all 3 in parallel it was recognised that this might stretch both the available suitable personnel and the financial resources available. The ability to run the 3 projects in parallel would have ^{facilitated} ~~the possible~~ team approach and an analysis of how significant events (elections, outbursts of violence etc) impacted on the different types of community.
3. After some discussion it was agreed that the priority, assuming that all 3 could not go ahead in parallel, would be as follows:-

- (i) the working class protestant community;
- (ii) isolated rural/border area;
- (iii) integrated community (either a geographical community or an institution community such as a university population).

In attempting to think through which particular working class protestant community might be most usefully included in such a study there seem to emerge a consensus that Waterside in Londonderry offered a number of advantages as a site^f for study. Considerations included the fact that the University of Ulster has already an initiative in the city, a lecturer in sociology has a proposal^f for study in Catholic Derry at embryonic stage, Mr Hamilton is soon to take up residence there and it would provide a useful contrast with some of the work already ongoing in Belfast.

4. It was agreed that Mr Hamilton would be the Director of the project and that it would be necessary to ~~employ~~ a Research Officer who had some experience in this type of work. There did not seem to be a great deal of enthusiasm for using research assistants on post-graduate grants from DENI, particularly in the study which is proposed for the Waterside although such a person might be suitable for looking at the integrated community. Government would not want to be seen to have a major role in the research however, there did appear to be a case for a low-key liaison group in which PPRU could keep in touch with the progress of the research. A further possibility was that Mr Hamilton and the Research Officer would provide a seminar/feed-back session from time to time for ~~our~~^e other wider spectrum of interested officials.

5. Mr Darby was fairly keen on the idea of applying to Co-operation North for part-funding for the research. He has already a number of formal and informal contacts with Co-operation North and has agreed to make application there in the first instance while copying to PPRU. His initial estimate is that each study will require 2 years which would include fieldwork, analysis of data and submission of report. (if this is the case, the phased approach with the integrated community study being relegated to third priority suggests that we could not expect any useful data on the latter before the late 1980s). Given the need to prepare a proposal, have it agreed, advertise and interview, Mr Darby thought^{that}/it would be unlikely that the study could commence before 1 October 1985. He would hope to have a draft proposal with us for discussion by the end of June.
6. Finally we discussed the update of the "Review" which had been commissioned in March. The principal input to the update will be some work which has recently been initiated in East Belfast and an update on work which had been ongoing for some time in West Belfast. The Review will also contain an analysis of the recent local Government election results. I would be happy to wait to see what this Review comes up with before we set about putting the updating procedure on a more routine basis.



EDGAR JARDINE
PPRU

3 June 1985