

F.R.

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AJM/402/SB

cc Mr Merifield  
Mr Carvill  
Dr Harbison  
Mr Edgar Jardine  
Mr Reeve

Note for the Record

At a meeting of the Attitude Survey Group, attended by those shown above, conclusions were reached as follows.

ITEM 1: "Violence and Communities" - a Proposal from University of Ulster

2. It was agreed that the proposal to carry out three concurrent, two-year, studies should be supported. The use of resident study officers would enable community attitudes to be charted as they changed in response to outside events, and by carrying out studies concurrently there would be both economy in management and advantage from comparing attitude changes in the three different communities (Protestant working class area; border area, and mixed urban).
3. The basic cost (£43,000 over 2½ years) was generally in line with the earlier estimates, but in consultation with DENI DFP would review the additional £10,800 charge for overheads.
4. The proposal to establish a research liaison group (with PPRU), part of whose remit was to provide periodic updates of newly available information including that from work in progress, was welcomed. In conjunction with this PPRU might consider how best to secure publicity for work carried out - both within government and in outside journals.

ITEM 2: "The Costs and Consequences of the Contingency Violence in Northern Ireland" - Paper by Andrew Hamilton UU

5. It was agreed that whilst the update contained little that was absolutely new, it helpfully pulled together material from published and unpublished sources. It drew attention to the growth of communal street violence, and the fact that PIRA activity (as opposed to that of other paramilitary groups) continued at a fairly constant level and with increased effectiveness per incident.

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6. It was suggested that this exercise, which was in part a carry through of the study sponsored by LOB for their review of security, might be combined effectively with the process referred to in paragraph 4 above.

ITEM 3: Attitude Survey

7. Dr Harbison had not yet received reports of the feasibility study from Dr Cairns but would circulate copies, with a first draft of a note for the Secretary of State, when this was received. It was noted that the Secretary of State had expressed interest in studies of community attitudes and the submission would need to take this into account. The disadvantages of single MORI-type polling in a volatile community were mentioned, and would need to be explained in any submission.

A-J

A J MERIFIELD  
9 October 1985

DRAFT ADVERTISEMENT  
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER  
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CONFLICT

ONE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE  
TWO RESEARCH ~~BURSARIES~~ STUDENTSHIPS

Applicants are invited for the above posts, on the project 'The impact of violence on intra-community, and community-state relationships on Northern Ireland'. These relationships will be examined by means of three co-ordinated ethnographic studies, located in particular communities within Northern Ireland. The successful applicants will be expected to spend most of their time in these communities for more than one year.

The successful applicants are likely to have a general background in the social sciences or allied areas, especially in sociology, social anthropology, social administration and policy, social psychology or social geography.

It is anticipated that the Research Associate will be appointed in the 1A salary range (£7,820 to £12,635 per year). Experience in joint or team research would be an advantage, as the successful applicant will be expected to co-ordinate the work of all three researchers, and to report to the director.

The research bursaries will each be worth £3,500 per annum. The successful applicants will be expected to enrol for further degrees.

All appointments are for two years from January 1986 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Further details may be obtained from etc. etc.