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cc PS/Sir Kenneth Bloomfield
Mr Parkes
Mr Spence
Mr Johnston - DENI
Mr Hamilton
Mr J McConnell
Mr Burnett - DENI

PS/Dr Mawhinney (L&B)

VISIT TO LONDONDERRY/COLERAINE

1. In relation to the visit to Londonderry I attach below Draft Speaking Notes for the Minister to use at both meetings. Also included is a range of possible questions and suggested responses.
2. In relation to the visit to Coleraine, a background note on the Centre for the Study of Conflict is attached which includes references to some of the people who will be attending the lunch/briefing. It is has now also emerged that the Vice Chancellor already has a luncheon engagement that day but will join us at some stage in the proceedings.

T McCusker

T McCUSKER
CCRU

2. December 1987

Winning acceptance for that principle throughout the community;

Acknowledging and respecting genuine differences where it exists and in a way which does not diminish or threaten the rights of each tradition;

Increasing contact between the two traditions and trying to erode prejudice and suspicion;

Supporting policies aimed at tackling together the problems and pursuing the objectives, which are common to both traditions and being wary of policies which emphasise their separateness.

The aim must be to ensure that a more confident and constructive relationship develops between the two traditions.

The responsibility is very wide and is not just borne by the Department of Education, which was the Community Relations Department, and the Department of Community

MEETINGS IN LONDONDERRY WITH THE TWO BISHOPS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY COUNCIL, CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

Speaking Notes

The visit is primarily educational to explain the role of the Unit and to use the opportunity to take any comments on board about community relations in Londonderry and throughout Northern Ireland.

The Minister should initially take the opportunity to pay tribute at both meetings for the work undertaken to encourage community relations and explain that the new Unit would hope to build on the considerable work that is ongoing in Londonderry and throughout the Province.

Explain that the Government has been concerned for some time to ensure that community relations should play a crucial role in the determination of Government policy, and that there were effective ways and means to encourage and promote better relationships between the two traditions in Northern Ireland.

We wanted to ensure that Government policies are based on:-

Seeking full equality of opportunity and equity of treatment between the two traditions in Northern Ireland;

Winning acceptance for that principle throughout the community;

Acknowledging and respecting genuine differences where it exists and in a way which does not diminish or threaten the rights of each tradition;

Increasing contact between the two traditions and trying to erode prejudice and suspicion;

Supporting policies aimed at tackling together the problems and pursuing the objectives, which are common to both traditions and being wary of policies which emphasise their separateness.

The aim must be to ensure that a more confident and constructive relationship develops between the two traditions.

The responsibility is very wide and is not just borne by the Department of Education, which was the Community Relations Department since the Department of Community

Relations and the Community Relations Commission were wound up.

We have decided therefore to create new arrangements at the centre of Government to consider all aspects of the relations between the two traditions in Northern Ireland. The new community relations Unit has been established within the Central Secretariat which reports to the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. The work of the Unit will be directed by a committee of senior officials drawn from the six Northern Ireland Departments and from the Northern Ireland Office under my chairmanship. We have appointed John Darby from the Centre for the Study of Conflict as our academic adviser and we will work closely with many interested statutory and voluntary bodies to build on what already has been achieved.

The new Unit will have three broad roles;

Challenge - major policy decisions will only be taken after careful evaluation of their possible impact on community relations;

Audit - periodic reviews of the most important policies and programmes will be undertaken to assess their impact on community relations;

Innovation - it is hoped to produce new ideas about improving community relations and about how best to support those who are working very hard to improve relations and remove prejudice.

A major part of the initial work of the unit will be to meet a wide range of individuals and groups involved in community relations, and our visit here today is part of that process. I would welcome your frank comment about the role that we have determined for the new Unit and for any comments you would like to give us about issues you feel affect community relations or about Government policy in this area.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What do you mean by "community relations"?

In other parts of the UK and elsewhere in the world, people usually use the term community relations to refer to the relationship between people of different colours or races. Thankfully, Northern Ireland does not have a racial relations or colour problem. It does, however, face deep rooted difficulties about the relationship between the two main traditions - the Catholic/Irish/Nationalist/Republican tradition and the Protestant/British/Unionist/Loyalist tradition. The problem in Northern Ireland is how these two traditions can find the means to live together with a sense of community, not merely alongside each other, but amongst each other.

Why are these changes taking place

In the past, the community relations responsibility rested with the Department of Education as the successor to the former Department of Community Relations. There is a very important contribution to better community relations being made through the education system but the question of community relations is central to all aspects of government in Northern Ireland and we have, therefore, decided to establish the Unit at the very centre of Government to ensure that the crucial community relations issues are given the fullest possible consideration.

What is your policy on community relations?

I believe that our policies must be based on

- seeking full equality of opportunity and equity of treatment between the two traditions
- winning acceptance for that principle throughout the whole Northern Ireland community

What has the Unit done so far?

- acknowledging and respecting genuine difference where it exists and in a way which does not diminish or threaten the rights of each tradition
- increasing contact between the two traditions, trying to erode prejudice and suspicion and building on the many things the two traditions have in common
- supporting policies aimed at tackling together the problems, and pursuing together the objectives, which are common to both traditions, and to be wary of policies which emphasise their separateness.

My aim is to help a more confident and constructive relationship to develop between the two traditions in Northern Ireland.

How will the new arrangements work?

The Central Community Relations Unit is located in Stormont Castle. It will be under the day to day control of one of the most senior officers the 2nd Permanent Secretary in the NIO who is also Head of NICS. The Unit will be guided by a steering group of senior officials from NIO and the 6 Northern Ireland Departments which will be chaired by me. The Unit will have access to independent academic advice and will forge links with the many statutory and voluntary bodies working on community relations matters.

Why not revive the Community Relations Commission

I believe the problem of community relations is so central to nearly all aspects of the government of Northern Ireland that the expertise and advice must be located within Government, not outside. That is why the new Central Community Relations Unit will be based in Stormont Castle. Certainly, there will be a need to seek advice and help from people outside Government - from voluntary bodies, the universities and the churches. But I want to ensure that, at the very centre of the decision-making process in Northern Ireland, the crucial community relations issues - in their very widest sense - are given the fullest possible consideration.

What difference will these changes make?

The changes in the machinery of government will not in themselves transform community relations in Northern Ireland. A real and lasting change depends essentially on the people of Northern Ireland themselves and the leaders of opinion in both traditions. What I am determined to ensure is that, at the very centre of the decision-making process in Northern Ireland, the crucial community relations issues - in their widest sense - shall be given the fullest possible consideration.

What has the Unit done so far?

The Unit has been engaged in discussions with a great number of individuals and groups to take stock of what is happening in the community relations field. The challenge role is already taking place and the Unit would hope to finalise areas of Government policy for detailed Audit reviews in the near future.

Will there be more funding for community relations work?

Just after the Unit was established I announced that I would make some £200,000 available through the Department of Education's Community Relations Programme to promote cross-

community contact schemes for young people. Details of this scheme were circulated widely and I am presently considering the first batch of applications. The Department of Education also provides £50,000 to the NI Voluntary Trust to promote inter-community contacts among other community groups.

*Extract from Annual Report
Two members of management
committee may also attend*

What size will the new Unit be?

The size of the Unit is currently under consideration. Much will depend upon how its work programme develops. I do not want to create a large organisation. Rather I envisage a small group of officials - some full-time, others part-time, who will draw on expertise and experience throughout the NIO and the NI Departments and also outside, in the universities and in the voluntary sector itself.

The Centre is encouraging the growth of an academic community involved in conflict research, and supporting it through seminars, publications and liaison with other academic institutions. Conflict research is often inter-disciplinary and comparative. The free-standing status of the Centre facilitates this approach, and much of the research based in the Centre is carried out by teams from more than one faculty.

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There are close relations between the research activities of the Centre and the teaching activities of the Peace Studies courses based in the university's campus at Magee.

Staffing

The Management Committee consists of a group drawn from those involved in the work of the Centre, and the Director is a seconded member of the academic staff. The Course Director of Peace Studies is an ex-officio member of the Management Committee.

Director

Professor John Darby, Social Administration and Policy

Management Committee

- Mr. P. Arthur, Politics
- Prof. D. Birrell, Social Administration and Policy
- Dr. E. Cairns, Psychology
- Mr. N. Dodge, Sociology and Anthropology
- Mr. S. Dunn, Education
- Dr. A. Hepburn, History.

Dr. Paul Brennan, from the University of Paris III, has been visiting honorary Fellow at the Centre during the second semester.

Extract from Annual Report

Those attending lunch are marked in blue, beside their projects

Two members of management committee may also attend

Aims

The central aim of the Centre has not altered since its formation. It is to promote and encourage research on the community conflict in Ireland, to provide a forum for cross-disciplinary and comparative studies and to make an informed and impartial contribution to the public discussion of the conflict.

The Centre aims to do this by encouraging the growth of an academic community involved in conflict research, and supporting it through seminars, publications and liaison with other academic institutions. Conflict research is often inter-disciplinary and comparative. The free-standing status of the Centre facilitates this approach, and much of the research based in the Centre is carried out by teams from more than one faculty.

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This grant was awarded to the Centre by the Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Fondation Charles Veillon, with Derrick Wilson as the named researcher. It started on September 1, 1985. Within accounts of people's experience of being victimized and scapegoated the project is developing material for learning about rivalry and conflict resolution. It is also drawing on complementary Biblical scholarship in this area and is seeking to contribute to a rationale for the practice of reconciliation groups.

This grant has been extended for a further year by Rowntree to allow Derrick Wilson to take the chairmanship of the newly formed N. Ireland Youth Committee. The new date for completion is September 1989.

Fourteen members of the academic staff, from three faculties, are named researchers in the Centre's projects. More than sixty members of the academic staff are associated more informally with activities of the Centre. A series of Research Communiques was started during the year to keep academics and others informed of developments in the Centre; four communiques were issued during the academic year.

Six researchers are currently working in the Centre, funded by external grants. Another appointment is imminent. They are

Mr. Derick Wilson
Dr. Alan Smith
Mr. Clem McCartney
Mrs. Ann Finn
Mr. Tony Anderson
Dr. Duncan Morrow

(see page 5)

In 1987 these researchers, whose primary affiliation is to the Centre, began to meet formally as a team, to discuss common problems and research priorities.

Derick Wilson spent three months working in the Institute for Peace and Conflict and Peace Research in the university of Uppsala. Clem McCartney went to Israel as member of a group studying the relevance to Northern Ireland of conflict management skills applied in Israel.

Mrs Pat Shortt is secretary to the Centre.

Research Projects Currently Based in the Centre

The research projects based in the Centre for the Study of Conflict have been concentrated on three main elements of Northern Ireland's community conflict: the examination of institutional conflict and co-operation; the evaluation of government initiatives in the area of community relations; and reviews of academic research.

Seven externally funded projects are currently based in the Centre:

1. The task of reconciliation groups

Staffing	Derick Wilson
Duration	Three years: 1985-88
Funding body	Rowntree Charitable Trust: Fondation Charles Veillon

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2. Governments and non-dominant ethnic groups in Europe, 1850-1940
(Group VIII: the City)

University staff AC Hepburn
Duration Four years: 1984-88
Funding Body European Science Foundation

This project is part of the European Science Foundation's comparative minorities project, which is a long-term cross-national enterprise. Its focus is on Catholics in Belfast.

3. Inter School Links

Staffing S. Dunn, Director,
J. Darby.
A. Smith, Research Officer
E. Bullock, Seconded Teacher.
Duration Two years, from March 1986
Funding body Department of Education
for Northern Ireland

The project is a follow-up to the researches previously published as Schools Apart (?), 1978, and Schools Together(?), 1985. The intention is to examine the current range of activities in inter-school co-operation in Northern Ireland, to develop and evaluate new co-operative initiatives between schools in the Western Education and Library Board, and to produce guidance material for teachers based on this work. The project will be completed in 1988.

4. Impact of Violence

Staffing A Hamilton, Director
J Darby
C. McCartney, Research Officer
Two Studentships: A. Finn & A. Anderson
Duration Two years, from Spring 1986
Funding body Policy, Planning and Research Unit

This project seeks to identify and remedy major gaps in community research. It involves community-based studies in three geographical districts in Northern Ireland, and will make use of a variety of research methodologies. The object of the research is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the effects of the current violence and political uncertainty on the general population of the province and, while the researchers will be examining a wide range of social behaviour in the different communities, the studies will focus on three key issues;

- (1) to what extent have the Protestant and Catholic communities become further polarised as a result of the continuing violence and political uncertainty;
- (2) to what extent, and for what reasons, are various sections of the Northern Ireland population alienated from the state; and
- (3) to what extent does the seemingly fairly high degree of social interaction between Protestants and Catholics in certain areas help reduce community tensions.

5. The Role of the Churches
Staffing

D. Birrell, Joint Director
T. O'Keefe, Joint Director
J. Greer, Joint Director
Duncan Morrow, Research Officer
Duration Two years
Funding Body Department of Education, Northern Ireland

The project aims to examine the level of co-operation between the churches in Northern Ireland across a range of activities. It will be carried out by means of a survey, followed up by an in-depth examination of particular examples of co-operation, and the obstacles facing it.

6. The Social Problems of Derry

Staffing Thirteen academics from UU
Duration Three years
Funding body European Community and others

This is a comparative project involving a series of research collaborations between academics from the universities of Ulster, Liverpool, and Paris VIII. It will examine the problem of ethnic conflict and the social consequences of unemployment in three decaying inner cities - Derry, Liverpool and St. Denis. Preliminary research has been conducted in Derry, and a conference was held in Paris in March 1987, at which interim and completed papers were presented. Further collaborative research is being undertaken, and a second conference planned for September 1988.

7. Consociationalism

Staffing John Darby
Duration One year: 1986-7
Funding body Policy, Planning and Research unit

This project will examine non-political dimensions of consociationalism in the Netherlands and Belgium. It has three main themes. First is the historical origins of pillarization and the philosophy behind it. Second is the implementation of the policy and adaptations to it. Finally the research will consider the application of these themes to Northern Ireland. The emphasis throughout is on policy-related issues.

Dr Tony Gallagher

The Centre is also involved in developing the Majority-Minority Project. This aims to initiate and maintain a longitudinal Review of the social and economic circumstances of the majority and minority populations in Northern Ireland. It is intended to publish the Review in the form of periodic reports by the Centre.