

Drive
A. file to discuss
by Edward +
John Cowan book.
+ file 4595.
+ file 45895
may be appropriate
3/11/97 T650/95



240/10

Internal Memo

From: Paul Sweeney

Tel: 47805

Date: 8 October 1997

To: PS/Secretary

Eachyn
Considers the best home for this. It certainly
should be on the TS as file
but might be appropriate
to Mrs. Also need a
note in the Perry Book.
Ed. 3/1/10

Your ref:
Our ref:

As Mr. Cowan
Edward

cc: Mr Cowan
Mr Warburton
Mr Canavan

to see file?
2/31/10

9.10

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROTESTANT COMMUNITY

1. It was interesting to note the manner in which Dr Paisley and Mr Jim Nicholson dealt with the issue of funding to the protestant community at the launch of the three Northern Ireland MEP's report on the EUSSPPR, held in the EC Office in Belfast on Monday 6 October 1997.
2. Interviewed on BBC TV and UTV, both gentlemen acknowledged that the under-representation of applications from sections of the protestant community was essentially a matter that had to be addressed by the protestant community becoming better organised in relation to applying for funds.
2. The relevant extract from the report is also interesting; - section 3.7 -

"There is agreement that, for historical and cultural reasons, the Protestant community has not had the sort of localised structures which would have enabled them to plug in, without delay, to the mechanisms of the various sub-programmes. It should be emphasised that there is no question of unfair discrimination being the cause of the slower start which the Protestant community have made in many areas in their applications to, and participation in, the programme. The problem is recognised and there are indications that catching up is now taking place."

3. In a conversation with Cllr Nigel Dodds yesterday, in which I noted a perceived change of approach by Dr Paisley on this matter, he informed me that a number of DUP supporters had telephoned central office to complain at the line taken by Dr Paisley at the press conference - the implication being that it was a touch too soft.

4. This injects a new dimension and maturity into this subject and presents a wider range of possibilities to the study we are initiating in this regard.

Paul -

~~PAUL SWEENEY~~