

File John 8/12

FROM: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE
5 December 1997

- cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - O
- PS/Mr Murphy (B&L) - O
- PS/Mr Ingram (B&L) - O
- PS/Lord Dubs (DOE&L) - O
- PS/Mr Semple - O
- Mr Watkins - O
- Mr Hamilton-by fax
- Mrs L Brown-by fax
- Miss Neill

RECEIVED
 SECRETARY OF STATE
 - 9 DEC 1997
 6234
 Dept. of the Environment

RECEIVED

10 NOV 1997

ACCOMM BRANCH

Mr Spence-by fax

DEVELOPING THE STORMONT ESTATE

The Secretary of State was grateful of your submission of 1 December on this subject, which you and Linda Brown discussed with her earlier this week. The Secretary of State is pleased with the progress made to date and asked for her thanks to be passed on to everyone involved.

2. On the specific points raised in Linda Brown's note of 3 December, the following was noted:

- Peter Robinson's reaction when asked about concerts at Stormont was not negative, in fact he offered to take soundings himself; however he needs to be spoken to before anything is firmed up; reassurance needs to be given to the local residents also;
- new marketing arrangements - these will be undertaken by one person;

- the facilities will not be used for party political purposes; you said you would draft a policy for approval re the use of Stormont;
- it was agreed that events would not be subsidised but that some work could be done on putting in place what would be needed for the utilisation of the grounds eg water supply;
- it was agreed that a Sunday date would be difficult;
- the question of legal powers re expenditure needs to be addressed;
- the Secretary of State agreed that a classical concert, RUC tattoo, Garth Brooks or the like would be very acceptable at Stormont;
- it was agreed to advertise for promoters to ensure fairness;
- the Secretary of State would write to Elton John and others following her meeting with Jim Aitken on 5 December; Mrs Brown agreed to provide a draft;
- the Secretary of State intends to meet with Eamon McCann after Christmas; (Action: Diary Secretary)
- it was agreed that an advertisement should be put out inviting people to hold exhibitions in Parliament Buildings;
- the Secretary of State would like to write to the Prime Minister to say what has been done. (Action please: Mrs Brown).

Signed

W K LINDSAY
Private Secretary