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cc Mr Steele, NIO
Mr McCusker, DOE
Mr J Kearney, DHSS
Mr Layberry, DFP

FROM: J L SEMPLE

17 April 1996

TO: MR WATKINS
Central Secretariat

FUNDING TO THE LOWER ORMEAU COMMUNITY

1. Please see the attached correspondence from Jim Nicholson MEP and the draft reply I have been invited to send.
2. Since there may be sensitivities about this group (the Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group) and about the situation in the area of which I am unaware, I would be grateful for any advice and comment on the reply and for any drafting amendments you or copy recipients may wish to suggest.

J L SEMPLE

JS/1945

FROM: J M V LAYBERRY
EUROPEAN DIVISION
DATE: 16 APRIL 1996

SECRETARY

EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION:
LETTER OF 26 MARCH FROM MR NICHOLSON, MEP

1. Mr Jim Nicholson, MEP wrote to you on 26 March enclosing a letter from the Secretary of LOL No 978, Ormeau Apprentice Boys' Temperance, which sought further details about a grant paid from the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation to the Lower Ormeau Community.
2. A grant to the Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group has recently been approved under Measure 1 of the Social Inclusion Sub-programme of the Peace Programme. The grant is for a total of £60,000 (£20,000 for each of 3 years), including European and matching funding. It has been approved to cover the costs of a community development officer (salary and costs of development activities).
3. This Measure is managed by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (one of the 6 Intermediary Funding Bodies) and it is for them to justify their decision in the first instance. On the question of eligibility, it seems that the project falls clearly within the terms of the Measure as laid down in the Programme document and is consistent with the objectives of the Measure. The employment of

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community development officers to undertake capacity training in communities where such capacity does not presently exist is also included in the description of types of action which are eligible.

- 4. DHSS is the accountable Department for this Measure and I have cleared the attached draft response to Mr Nicholson with them.

Joelle Layberry
 J M V LAYBERRY

JL/DHI, TR NICHOLSON

DRAFT

Mr Jim Nicholson, MEP
European Office
3 Glengall Street
BELFAST
BT12 5AE

Your ref: JC/JM

April 1996

Dear

FUNDING TO LOWER ORMEAU COMMUNITY

Thank you for your letter of 26 March 1996 enclosing correspondence from Mr Stephen Cousins, Secretary of the Ormeau Apprentice Boys' Temperance, about the funding of the Lower Ormeau Community under the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

A grant of £60,000 to the Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group has been approved under Measure 1 (Developing Grass Roots Capacities and Promoting the Inclusion of Women) of the Social Inclusion Sub-programme of the Peace Programme. One of the objectives of this Measure is to build trust, capacities and skills within communities to initiate and facilitate the development of their own areas with a view to enabling them to participate in cross-community activity in the longer term. In this case, the grant is for the employment of a community development officer and will cover salary costs as well as the costs of running training courses etc for local groups. This

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is consistent with the types of action which are eligible under the Measure.

The decision on funding was taken by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT), which is the Intermediary Funding Body responsible for the management of this Measure and I suggest that Mr Cousins should contact them directly at 22 Mount Charles, Belfast, BT7 1NZ to obtain full details about the project and their decision. I have also copied your correspondence to Social Inclusion Branch of the Department of Health and Social Services (based in Castle Buildings) which has responsibility for the oversight of the Measure, to make them aware of Mr Cousins' concerns.

Yours sincerely

J L SEMPLE

JL/DHLTR NICHOLSON