



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

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① Catholic / Prot qu - all papers.  
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② Ministerial Briefing  
(submission only)

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FROM: JACK LAYBERRY  
EUROPEAN DIVISION

DATE: 4 JUNE 1999

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PS/MR MURPHY (DFP)

**EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION:  
PROTESTANT PARTICIPATION: MEETING WITH UDP AND COMMUNITY  
GROUPS**

Summary

Issue: Briefing for meeting with UDP and community groups.

Timescale: 8 June 1999.

Recommendation: Briefing attached.

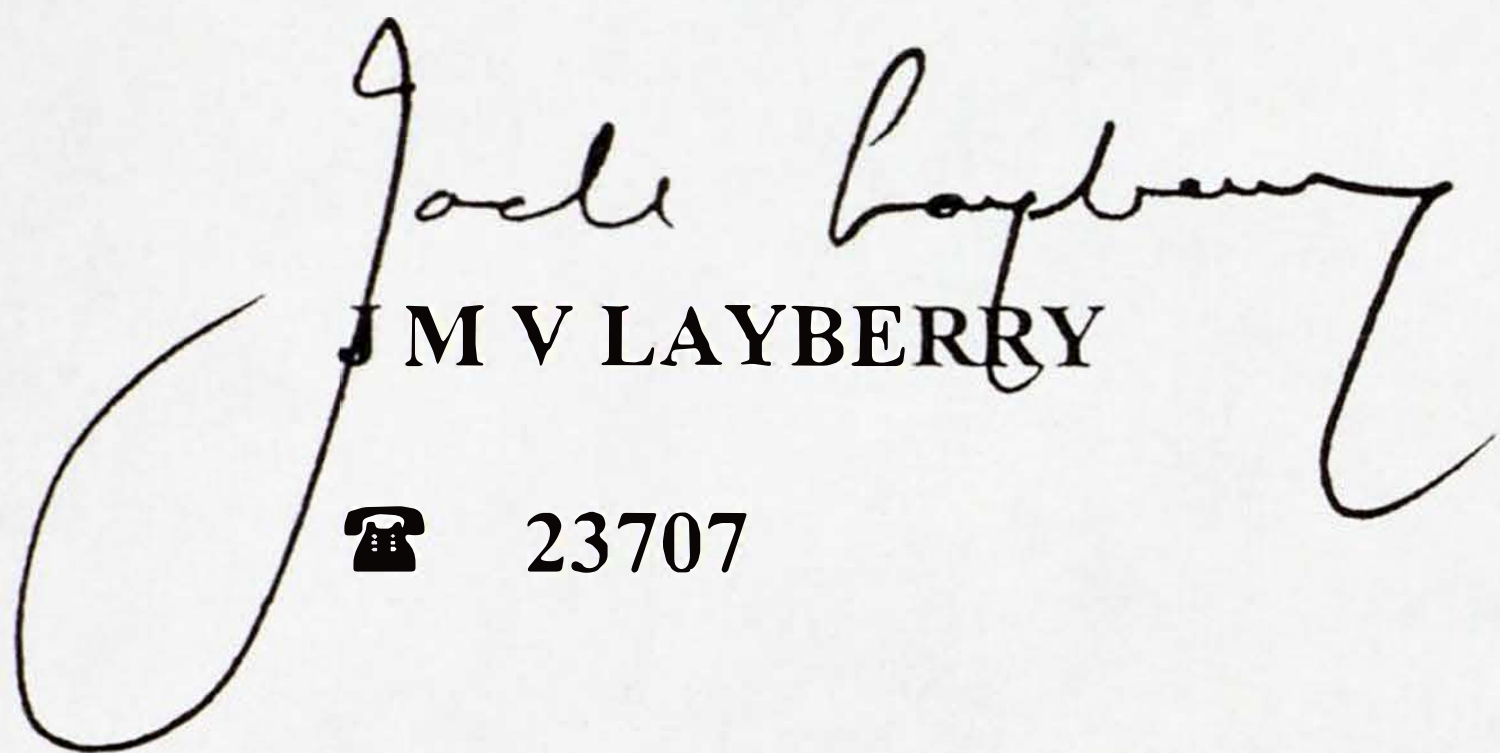
1. During a political meeting last month with the Minister, Mr Gary McMichael from the UDP mentioned that he would like to meet with the Minister to discuss the level of uptake of funds by the community he represents under the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. This meeting has now been scheduled to take place on Tuesday 8 June at 11.00 am in the Minister's Room, Block B, Castle Buildings, with a pre-brief at 10.45 am.
2. I enclose the following briefing for the meeting:
  - lines to take on current Peace Programme (Annex A);

99/JL/DH/335



- sequence of events leading up to the issue of the Report on the Analysis of Community Uptake (Annex B);
- key findings of the Report on the Analysis of Community Uptake (Annex C);  
and
- the New Special Programme (Annex D).

3. I will accompany the Minister along with Dr Gerry Mulligan (NISRA).

  
J M V LAYBERRY  
☎ 23707

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Mr Carvill  
Dr McCormick  
Dr Mulligan  
Miss Wilson



## ANNEX A

### EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION: PROTESTANT PARTICIPATION: MEETING WITH UDP AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

#### Lines to Take

- Aware that there is concern about the balance of funding between the two communities - feeling that the Protestant community has benefited to a lesser extent than might have been expected.
- Essential that both communities benefit in an equitable fashion from the Programme. Particular emphasis has been given to this in the action plan for the allocation of the second and third tranches of funding for the Programme.
- Efforts have been made and assistance has been given to ensure that all sectors of the population have the opportunity to participate fully in the Programme.
- Individual funding decisions are the responsibility of the different funding agencies involved in the delivery of the Programme.
- Examples of projects in Protestant areas include:

Taughmonagh Community Forum (£113,000); Taughmonagh Families Project (£39,000); Lisburn Prisoners Support Project (£50,000); Old Warren Community Association (Lisburn) (£26,000); Ballee Community Association (Ballymena) (£33,000)



## ANNEX B

### EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION:

#### PROTESTANT PARTICIPATION: MEETING WITH UDP AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

#### SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE ISSUE OF THE REPORT ON THE ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY UPTAKE

October 1997	Northern Ireland's MEPs issue report on the Peace Programme drawing attention to the perception that the Protestant community has benefited to a lesser extent than might have been expected.
December 1997	Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency (NISRA) commissions preliminary 'community uptake analysis' drawing on more comprehensive data for the whole Programme.
April 1998	Preliminary results of the community uptake analysis are made available to the Minister.
May 1998	The Programme Monitoring Committee are advised of the preliminary results of the community uptake analysis.
June 1998	Minister advised that the preliminary results may not be representative of all projects funded under the Programme. Supplementary report commissioned based on an update of the programme database.
December 1998	Minister advised of the outcome of the community uptake analysis and notifies NI MEPs and First and Deputy First Ministers (Designate).
April 1999	Report published by NISRA. Copies issued to NI MEPs and First and Deputy First Ministers (Designate).



## ANNEX C

### EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION:

#### PROTESTANT PARTICIPATION: MEETING WITH UDP AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

#### KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT ON THE ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY UPTAKE

- The Programme achieved extensive coverage (61%) in Northern Ireland.
- The estimated 'Protestant' and 'Catholic' share of the funding applied for was 46% and 54% respectively. Funding approved was also 46% and 54% respectively.
- There was clear relationship between the levels of multiple deprivation in an area and the amount of funding it received under the Programme.
- Higher per capita funding in areas of relatively greatest social need. This applied in both the 'Protestant' and 'Catholic' communities.
- As proportionately more Catholics than Protestants live in areas of relatively high multiple deprivation this accounts for at least some of the difference in overall take up level between the two communities.
- By far the most statistically significant explanation of the difference in the levels of take up was the tendency within each community to apply - much greater in the 'Catholic' community than within the 'Protestant' community.
- Subsequent research has shown that for some of the Sub-programmes (Productive Investment and Cross Border Development) and for Government Departments as a block of funders, the level of take up by the Protestant community exceeds that for the Catholic community.



## THE NEW SPECIAL PROGRAMME

### Lines to Take

- The unique and special element of the next round of the Structural funds is a new Special Programme in support of peace. This will be worth 400 million euros (about £260 million) to Northern Ireland over the years 2000-2004. The Border Counties of Ireland have also been allocated 0.1 billion euros (or about £65 million).
- Precise details of the new Special Programme have still to be clarified. However, we know that this is a unique deal, which no other region has received and we are delighted to have secured this special treatment.
- The challenge now will be to ensure that this special funding is used very constructively to support economic and social renewal and the transition to a more peaceful, positive and stable society.

### If raised:

We attach a high priority to full consultation with local interests. This is also required by the Structural Funds Regulations and we will make every effort to ensure that these are fully respected. The consultation conference held on 18 May provided some initial consultation on the new Special Programme. However, a further consultation conference, specifically on the new Special Programme, is planned for late August/early September.

The Commission timetable requires that the Special Programme (and the Structural Funds Plan) are submitted by the Member State four months after the Regulations are agreed. The Regulations are expected to be agreed by late June so our plans will have to be submitted by late October.





# INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

## BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

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U R G E N T F A X

FROM :

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TO:

*Don B. O'Connell*  
*23880*

MESSAGE:

*Hope this suffices*

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DATE :

*7/6/99*



EU SPECIFIC HISTORY PROVISIONS FOR THE NEW AND RESTRUCTURING

EXAMPLE OF ACTION TAKEN BY CO-OPERATION IRELAND TO ENSURE

PROTESTANT GROUPS INVOLVEMENT IN CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMMES

that are  
part of  
the relocated  
participate  
key in  
the program

Many groups in Loyalist areas do not actively chase funding for cross-community, cross-border programmes for various reasons.

There are many misconceptions about this type of programme, that Co-operation Ireland are pro actively working to overcome.

Some of the comments made are things like...

- Don't apply to that crowd they pass all your personal details to republicans.
- I would not get involved in those programmes, I don't want to be linked up with some hardened republican group.
- There's no point applying to that crowd they would not give us money
- Don't take part in those programmes or the Red Hand Commandoes will come looking you.

To try and dispell these beliefs and others, Co-operation Ireland are actively working in what some would describe as 'hard loyalist' areas of Belfast.

We have embarked upon a programme of encouraging applications by using trusted community leaders to assist in the development of applications supported by a staff member from Co-operation Ireland.

Andy Tyrer works closely with ourselves in East Belfast in encouraging groups to apply for projects.

While Andy works on the ground talking to groups, he is assisted in the paper work by our member of staff. With Andy, we are looking at creative ways to ensure applications are developed from groups on the ground in the East of the City.

In Protestant West Belfast, we have elicited the assistance of Jackie Hewitt who is a well known Community activist in the area. We have encouraged a large application from Farsat which should go a long way in developing projects from that area.

We are gradually breaking down the barriers, which hinders these groups from applying for projects and we have been forward planning to ensure that we can fulfill our end when these applications come in.

The benefits to communities of these projects are starting to hit home and we are receiving more and more applications from Protestant groups in areas such as the Shankill (West Belfast), East-Belfast, Sandy Row and along York Street, Shore Rd and into Carrickfergus.

Understand Mr McMichael has a meeting with Co-operation Ireland shortly.

ADD have advised that Co-operation Ireland are due to have a meeting with Mr McMichael to shortly re order to discuss how in order to discuss the possibility of introducing similar arrangements.