



Internal Memo

From: R B Spence
Permanent Secretary

Your ref:
Our ref: PSE 585/97

Tel: (5)41175/6

Date: 11 September 1997

To: Mr Watkins
*1. cc in Mr. S. Hill
in Mr. Innes
in Mr. Stynes
in Mr. Brody
in Mr. Campbell
in Mr. Perry
in Mr. Wallace
2. back to me. pl..*

cc: PS/Minister
Mr Gowdy
Mr Cowan
Mr Lavery
Mrs Brown
Mr Sweeney

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

*2
11.9*

*9/19/97
Ms McCann*

Introduction

1. DOE has an interest in two other aspects of the UUP's list of measures as set out in Mr Jeffrey Donaldson's note of 10 September to Mr Jonathan Powell.
2. This note records some points which, I hope, will be helpful. They take account of some explanations of UUP thinking which I obtained today from Mr Reg Empey.

Victims of Violence

3. The UUP proposal is for "a Commission to be established to examine ways in which the victims of terrorism can be appropriately commemorated and to consider the welfare of the families of such victims".

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we
4. DOE has an input through our involvement in the proposition to create a £2m-£3m Thanksgiving Square in Laganside which would provide a permanent memorial for those who have suffered in "the Troubles". The Secretary of State met the promoters on 19 August.
 5. Mr Empey made the point that, very little of the Peace and Reconciliation money was finding its way, as had been intended, to the victims. A fair amount of help was, however, being given to ex-prisoners.
 6. The UUP were not wedded to the idea of a "Commission" to take this matter further; a respected individual might be sufficient.
 7. I floated the possibility of inviting an existing body, like the Community Relations Council or the Northern Ireland Partnership Board to commission an appropriate examination. Mr Empey did not rule this out; the important thing, in UUP eyes, was Government recognition that something needed to be done for the victims at a time when all the media attention was on the perpetrators of violence on both sides.

Community Development

8. The UUP want "a review of funding for community development with particular reference to access from the Protestant community".
9. They are, as you know, knocking at an open door here. We are currently initiating a cross-departmental review, led by DOE, into the support given to



assist local communities to help in the recognition of our most disadvantaged areas.

10. Such a review will need to include whether our efforts are as sharply focused as possible on the most disadvantaged areas and would pick up the concern that the Protestant side of the community appear to be less effective in accessing the available support.
11. The Northern Ireland Partnership Board had also identified this issue and will be exploring with other funding bodies what can be done to encourage greater participation by the Protestant side of the community.
12. It should, therefore, be possible for Ministers to announce now that the Government has initiated an interdepartmental review of support for community led regeneration activity, which will include an examination of whether this activity is properly focused on the most disadvantaged areas and people on both sides of the community.



R B SPENCE