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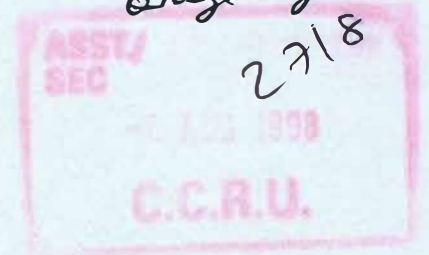
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From: Robert Crawford  
Political Affairs Division  
4 August 1998

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PS/Secretary of State (B&L)



*Issue: Dinner with Orange Order representatives*

*Timescale: As requested by Private Office*

### DINNER WITH ORANGE ORDER REPRESENTATIVES

The Minister will be dining with representatives of the Orange Order on Wednesday 5 August. Dinner is to be at 7.30 for 8.00pm in Stormont House. The Orange Order will be represented by the following:

Robert (Bobby) Saulters, Grand Master  
John McCrea, Grand Secretary  
Mervyn Bishop, Grand Treasurer  
Denis Watson, Deputy Grand Secretary  
Tom Reid, Vice Chairman of the Central Committee

2. In attendance will be Stephen Leach (AUS, Security Directorate), Robert Crawford (PAB) and Fiona McCoy. I have advised the Orange Order that the Minister's PPS may also be in attendance.

3. Set out below is a summary of the indirect contact talks and some background briefing on the Shared City Forum. The Minister should also see Ken Lindsay's minute of the Secretary of State's meeting today with the Reverend Roy Magee and Peter Quinn.

During that meeting Roy Magee suggested that the Orange Order, at Grand Lodge level at least, might be reconsidering their attitude to the Parades Commission. He

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thought that the Order might be prepared to accept the Commission if something could be done to address the Order's concern that the Commission is not accountable. It was suggested that this might be dealt with by arranging for the Commission to make reports to the Assembly, and perhaps to attend an Assembly committee to deal with questions arising from this. It was noted that this had been done by Government Ministers during the 1984-86 Assembly. Peter Quinn confirmed that this should not be a problem for the residents. The Minister might usefully explore with the Orange Order representatives whether they have any interest in developing this idea further.

4. Also at this morning's meeting it was agreed that officials should have a further meeting with the Reverend Magee and Peter Quinn to discuss the way forward. Following this they would contact the Orange Order and the Garvaghy Road Residents Coalition to arrange a round of bilateral meetings, to explore whether there was any movement in their positions and to honour the commitment to have further discussion about the Civic Forum proposal.

Indirect contact talks: summary

5. Some progress was made. Both delegations were prepared to accept the creation of a Civic Forum to tackle the economic and social problems of Portadown. There was discussion of an outline proposal for such a forum, prepared by Mr McCusker, and agreement was reached on the broad principles. Mr McCusker was asked to develop the proposal further and prepared a further paper (not yet given to the delegations). Both sides also agreed to meet in a separate forum to discuss the parades issue. This latter forum would be set up along the lines of the Shared City Forum in Londonderry. The Orange Order were prepared to accept this on the same basis as accepted by the Apprentice Boys of Derry), in particular that all contributions should be made through the chair. Acceptance of this model effectively means that the Order has abandoned its absolute refusal to participate in any meeting involving Brendan McKenna.

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6. The main area of disagreement, however remained this year's parade. The Orange Order were not prepared to move from their position that there must be a parade along the Garvaghy Road this year and that they must have guarantees about parades in future years (although at times it appeared the latter requirement was less crucial). The GRRC were not prepared to move from their position that there should be no parade this year, as determined by the Parades Commission, and insisted that the Commission's decision should be upheld by Government and that parades in future years should be discussed by dialogue (accepting the Derry format) between the Orange Order and the residents.

7. During the third proximity talks session, it became clear that there was no prospect of significant movement and the proximity talks were accordingly adjourned. It was agreed that bilateral contacts would continue and these have been pursued by Roy Magee and Peter Quinn. The GRRC wanted particularly to continue discussion on the Civic Forum, arguing that this should not depend on agreement with the Orange Order on the Drumcree parade, but should be proceeded with on its own merits to tackle deprivation in the Portadown area. Jonathon Quinn agreed that this should be part of the bilateral discussions.

8. Since the adjournment of the indirect contact talks on 21 July Peter Quinn and Roy Magee have remained in contact with the GRRC and Orange Order respectively. With the exception of the possible change of attitude at Grand Lodge level reported by Roy Magee (above) there has been little sign of movement on either side

Craigavon Borough Council Initiative

9. The Minister should also be aware that Craigavon Borough Council has been taking forward its own initiative to tackle the divisions in Portadown. This initiative derives from discussions between NIO, DOE and Central Secretariat last year, following the Secretary of State's request to David Watkins to look at what might be done in the longer term to tackle the underlying problems. It is agreed

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that Craigavon Borough Council should act as the lead agency and the Council has agreed to take forward an initiative based on the "City Vision" model used in Londonderry.

10. All of the parties in the Council at present support this, but the Chief Executive is worried that a higher profile Civic Forum initiative might cause Unionist, particularly DUP, support to be withdrawn. Exaggerated stories of what is included in the proposed Civic Forum package are circulating within the Unionist community in Portadown. The most popular story is that the Government is planning to spend £12.5m over five years in the Garvaghy Road area. This kind of rumour is very unhelpful, making it more difficult to achieve wider unionist support for a Civic Forum.

11. Attached for information is an annex setting out the key elements of the Shared City Forum in Londonderry.

*Robert Crawford*

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cc PS/SofS (B&L)  
PS/Mr Ingram (B&L)  
PS/PUS (B&L)  
Mr Jeffrey  
Mr Watkins (o/r)  
Mr Leach  
Mr Kelly  
Mr McCusker  
Mrs Brown (o/r)  
Mr Maccabe  
Mr Clarke  
Mr Gamble

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## ELEMENTS OF THE SHARED CITY FORUM

### History

The Shared City Forum held its first formal meeting last week and will meet again after the Apprentice Boys parade on 8 August. Following the first meeting bilateral contact continued through intermediaries and resulted in an agreement between the Apprentice Boys and the Bogside Reseidents Group.

The first meeting followed a number of preliminary meetings held over the last year. The meeting last week and the preliminary meetings were chaired by Martin Bradley, originally as mayor of Derry City Council, but later in a personal capacity after the ending of his year of office. The Forum was not formally initiated by Derry City Council, but by Bradley with the support of the Council. Discussion at the preliminary meetings centred on the scope of the Forum and groundrules for its operation.

### Membership

The Forum is intended to be as inclusive as possible, and includes representatives of the Orange Order, Apprentice Boys of Derry, Community Groups (including the Bogside Residents Group), churches and business representatives (to date provided through the Chamber of Commerce). Representatives of the two major shopping centres, The Richmond Centre and Foyleside, have also been invited. All members of Derry City Council are invited to the meetings. Political parties are not represented as separate organisations. Representatives of other organisations will be invited to particular meetings as appropriate (transport companies are invited t next week's meeting).



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Each group or organisation invited has been asked to send one representative, but there is no restriction on this. Some organisations sent two or three representatives to the preliminary meetings.

### Scope and remit

The Forum has a very wide remit, being able to address all issues, affecting the City, including parades. It was originally set up to look at the parades issue alone, however during the preliminary meetings it was agreed that the Forum's remit should be extended to include all issues affecting the City, including Protestant alienation. This has now been developed to include a heading of celebration of the cultural diversity within the City (particularly issues such as the intimidation of and discrimination against Protestants living on the city side of the Foyle).

### Chairmanship and procedure

Martin Bradley will chair the meetings and all contributions must be directed through the Chair. Groundrules including this requirement have been drawn up and agreed. In addition, the Apprentice Boys drew up their own "principles", on the basis of which they were prepared to join the Forum (they did not require that the Forum accept these). Copies of these principles and the groundrules are attached.

It is anticipated that the Forum will not take decisions by vote, hence the flexibility regarding membership. The intention is to reach decision by consensus, on the grounds that only decisions reached in this way are likely to be effective.

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**SHARED CITY FORUM**

**GROUND RULES**

- Anyone wishing to speak shall do so through the Chair.
- Each speaker identifies himself or herself.
- No one speaker will be allowed to dominate the discussion.
- Each speaker is treated with respect and listened to carefully. This means:
  - no personal abuse
  - no interruptions
  - no heckling
- No media present during the discussions.

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**APPRENTICE BOYS PRINCIPLES**

Inter community Relations Contract

- A Participants will accept the right of all religious and ethnic communities in this city to express their traditions and culture. An In-depth discussion and enquiry must be inaugurated, researching the reasons why Protestants are reluctant to live, work and socialise on the west bank. Every sincere effort must then commence to redress this unsatisfactory position.
  
- B Participants affirm the right of all communities in this city to hold parades and other events of cultural identity and be committed to making this city a parade friendly environment.
  
- C Participants are committed to resolving differences by peaceful means, with events outside the city having no contribution towards influencing decisions. The use of violence, the threat of violence and intimidation as a means of challenging other expressions of culture, must be rejected by all.
  
- D Participants who breach this contract, will no longer have a role in any future Forum dealing with the wider community relations in this city.

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