

## BRIEFING VISIT

Professor Marc Landy, Chair of the Department of Political Science at Boston College will meet with nominees for the first US programme "The Legislative Task" for a pre-briefing.

**DATE:** Tuesday 27 October 1998

**VENUE:** Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings

**TIME:** 2.30 - 4pm

**ANNEX II****TRANSITION PROGRAMME FOR THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY****UNITED STATES PROGRAMMES*****“THE TASK OF GOVERNMENT”*****SECTION I****Autumn 1998 Schedule****September 8, 1998*****Launch of the Programmes***

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Dr Marjorie Mowlam, MP, will launch the American component of the Northern Ireland Assembly Transition Programme. The Launch of the schedule will take place in Massachusetts.

**October 27-29, 1998*****Briefing Visit***

Professor Marc Landy, Chair of the Department of Political Science at Boston College will meet with representatives of the newly elected political parties to the Northern Ireland Assembly to brief them on the upcoming programmes and discuss needs and goals for the programmes. Professor Landy will attend the Equality session on the 28th and will use this experience to discuss the successful aspects of the Northern Ireland component.

**November 18-25, 1998*****The Legislative Task***

This week-long programme is designed to provide legislators from the Northern Ireland Assembly with tools and ideas that will help them carry out their legislative task by using United States legislators as a model. The week-long programme combines discussions with academic experts on legislative behaviour, federalism and legislative executive relations and policy analysis with field visits to legislative offices and other relevant working governmental organisations. Participants will meet with State Senators, State Representatives, City Councilors and their staff to discuss best-practices, public private partnerships and discuss successful working models for delivering good government. Specific

topics of analysis will include legislative oversight and accountability; information technology and communications; and intergovernmental relations. Extensive use will be made of case studies and simulations in order to give legislators the opportunity to participate actively in working through real problems of governance.

**December 5-12, 1998**

***Effective Staffing for Legislators***

This programme is designed to assist party staff in performing their vital role in the process of governance. It will combine focused sessions with academic experts and joint meetings with functioning political and legislative staffs. The objective is to enable staffers to acquire new skills in the areas of information technology and communications, policy analysis and to allow them to meet and talk with veteran staffers to exchange experiences and ideas and discuss best practices in government. In order to make the experience as lively and relevant as possible, extensive use will be made of case studies and simulations and to meet American peers at city, state and federal level.

**SECTION II****Winter and Spring 1999 Schedule**

Details and dates for Section II and III Programmes will be finalised in the light of discussions with Party Representatives, Executive Ministers and Committee Chairs.

**February '99*****Northern Ireland Assembly Committee on Finance***

The Chairman of the Committee on Finance could lead a cross-party delegation of committee members and administrators to observe and discuss American models of oversight, planning and resource allocation. The group could meet their peers in the planning, finance and auditing agencies in Massachusetts and the state of Maryland.

**March '99*****Council of the Isles Delegation***

A delegation of elected representatives from Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales could visit the United States and meet with peers and administrators to discuss common challenges in substantive areas.

**April '99*****Northern Ireland Assembly Committee on the Environment***

A group, consisting of elected representatives and administrators charged with creating policy in the areas of environmental regulation, services provision, oversight and the interpretation and enforcement of EU guidelines, could visit the state of Maine to experience their model for environmental protection.

**May '99*****Northern Ireland Assembly Committee on Education***

The challenges that Northern Ireland faces in the area of education are mirrored in some ways in the United States. The Education committee members could meet with peers and visit schools, school boards and analyse the current models for testing and regulation in the state of Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

**SECTION III****Autumn 1999 Schedule****September '99*****Administrators Programme***

Senior Civil Servants from the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Irish Civil Service who are working in support of the structures of the Agreement could analyse current trends in public administration in the United States and could meet with peers, legislators and professional associations from the New England region.

**October '99*****US-Northern Ireland Delegation***

A delegation of staffers, legislators and administrators from Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine and Rhode Island could visit Northern Ireland to discuss the results of the programmes, the emerging procedural and policy challenges and new needs of the Assembly members.

**November '99*****Young Political Leaders Programme***

Representatives from all the parties in Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales could visit the state of Massachusetts and Washington DC to meet with staffers, elected representatives and observe structures, legislative resources and the political party system.

**December '99**

Dr Sean M Rowland and Professor Marc Landy will lead a debriefing delegation to the Northern Ireland Assembly.