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**Reference Code:** 2005/7/603

**Title:** Draft memorandum for the Government for the proposal of Garret FitzGerald, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to establish The Reconciliation Trust Fund to assist groups promoting better relationships within and between the two communities in Northern Ireland and between both parts of Ireland. Accompanied by a covering letter from [CN Nolan] of the Department of Foreign Affairs to D Nally, Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Taoiseach.

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ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2  
DUBLIN 2

NI/53/1<sup>II</sup>

18 April 1974

*I MA Kennen  
to be reviewed 26.4.74  
Re: Reconciliation  
Please see the papers referred  
to at X on front page with: also  
anything on funds for the North  
including (into £100,000 for Red Cross  
etc.)  
24/4*

Dear Nally

I am enclosing copy of a draft Memorandum for the Government on the proposal of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to establish a fund entitled The Reconciliation Trust Fund, which would assist groups promoting better community relationships within and between the two communities in Northern Ireland and between both parts of Ireland. A draft of the Deed which would establish the Trust is also enclosed together with a background note on the proposal.

MacInerney of the Department of Finance has now indicated that their view, which is endorsed by the Minister for Finance, is that because of the important and sensitive issues involved, the matter should in the first instance be referred to the Interdepartmental Unit on Northern Ireland for their views and that until the Unit's views are available it would be premature to discuss the draft documents with the Department of Finance.

Accordingly, if you see no objection, it is proposed to convene an early meeting of the I.D.U. to discuss this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Mr. D. Nally  
Assistant Secretary  
Department of the Taoiseach

NI/53/1<sup>II</sup>RECONCILIATION TRUST FUNDBackground Note

In March 1973, the Minister initiated an enquiry at departmental level into the practical measures which might be undertaken to

- Contribute to better relations between groups and individuals on a North/South basis and to
- Contribute to improved relations between the two communities in Northern Ireland.

X  
Some preliminary ideas were evolved, in Anglo-Irish Section as a result of which, on 7th May, the Minister wrote to the Taoiseach and Minister for Finance outlining proposals envisaged for a Community Relations Fund whose object would be to finance activities which would, in sum, meet the above criteria.

In June the idea was canvassed at a meeting attended by certain people engaged in community work and cross-border projects in the South and a representative group of Northerners engaged in similar activities.

Following this meeting draft terms of reference and draft regulations for the administration of the Trust were circulated to the participants and other appropriate Northern contacts for observations. This documentation was also forwarded, 20th July, to the Department of Finance (Mr. Ó Carra).

In August, Lady Wicklow, who had been at the June meeting, gave notice of the setting up of the Steering Committee to supervise the establishment of a Centre for Reconciliation in Glenree. Anglo-Irish Section has kept up to date with the development of this project since that time.

In September, in accordance with observations furnished by Northern Ireland contacts regarding, e.g. use of the term "both communities", revised terms of reference were forwarded to the Department of Finance with a request for sanction to introduce a supplementary estimate of £50,000 for use as a grant-in-aid. In October, the terms of reference and a draft Memorandum for the Government were forwarded to the Chief State Solicitor with a request for assistance in drawing up a draft Deed of Trust and for advice on the legal or administrative difficulties which might be involved.

THIS DECLARATION OF TRUST is made the

1974/73.  
day of

by (here set out the name, address and occupation of each of the proposed Trustees)

(hereinafter called the "Trustees" which expression shall include any person for the time being holding office as a Trustee under the provisions of this Deed)

W H E R E A S it is desired to establish a trust for the Common Good of the people of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and for the Common Good of the people of Northern Ireland and for the Common Good of various sectors of the people of Northern Ireland in all or any of the following ways:-

- (i) by making financial assistance available to projects designed to contribute to the establishment, maintenance or development of harmonious and/or fruitful relationships between social and community groups in the Republic and similar groups in Northern Ireland
- (ii) by making financial assistance available to projects designed to contribute to the establishment, maintenance or development of harmonious and/or fruitful relationships between sectors of the community in Northern Ireland
- (iii) by making financial assistance available to help the efforts of social and community groups in Northern Ireland which are seeking to understand and to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural conditions in which they live
- (iv) <sup>by</sup> the selection and/or the initiation, with special reference to their comparative value and effectiveness, of projects proposed to further the aims of the Trust and through financing such projects as the Board of Trustees may deem worthy of support from the Fund in whole or in part

though such ways are not, and are not intended to be the only ways