

I.R.

file being
opened

Mr Wallace (K)
2/3

for retention a
and file pl.
7/3 2/3

RBS/103/88

cc. Mr Hamilton

Mr T Johnston

7/3

YOUTH FESTIVAL

Any comments please on the attached draft.

W

R B SPENCE
Central Secretariat
15 March 1988
/JH

RB SPENCE

I have suggested
one or two changes
Subject to your
content. 7/3
16/3

585/12

DRAFT/RBS/103/88 - 15 MARCH 1988

cc. PSG Members
Mr T Johnston

PS/Dr Mawhinney (B&L)

YOUTH FESTIVAL

Further to my minute of 13 January, I met Messrs Corbett and Rainey of the NI Festival for Youth Society for an exploratory meeting about the idea of a Youth Festival. I was accompanied by Mr Hamilton (Cent Sec) and Messrs Johnston and Wallace (DENI).

We discussed Messrs Corbett and Rainey's provisional ideas for a Youth Festival in March 1988 along the lines of those held in 1983 and 1985. These Festivals were based in the King's Hall and involved a mixture of entertainment, sport and information (mainly about careers and training). It would cost £150-200,000 to run a similar event in 1989 and would require substantial backing by various parts of the public sector in taking stands in the exhibition and mounting events, plus a guarantee against an overall deficit.

We indicated a preference for a strong cross-community content in any Festival and floated a number of ideas:-

1. Organising a number of Province-wide events with the final stages in the King's Hall area;
2. Linking up with a number of existing competitions with finals in March; and

at the same time,

3. arranging a cross-community conference for young people with an international flavour.

It was clear that strong private sector support would be essential. No single sponsor would be likely to have the resources to provide the necessary funds. A number of sponsors might, however, be willing to support individual events, particularly if Ministers gave full backing to the search for sponsorship. The scale of the task of mounting a sizeable Festival should not be under-estimated and March 1989 might be too ambitious a target. It ["]was essential to mount a really professional event or series of events; *QUALITY IS NECESSARY* ~~— THE FESTIVAL~~ ~~TO A~~ ~~PEACE~~
~~TO YOUR PEOPLE.~~

I think that the Minister would find it valuable to meet the members of the Executive of the Youth Festival Society who could give a short presentation on the last Festival ~~AND DEVELOP THEIR IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE~~. The Executive includes representatives of the Sports Council and the Youth Committee. A meeting would assist the Minister in assessing whether to recommend the Secretary of State and his Ministerial colleagues to give full support to the concept of a Youth Festival, including the search for private sponsorship and the allocation of the necessary public expenditure resources.

If the Minister is content, a meeting can be arranged shortly after Easter.

R B SPENCE

March 1988

/JH