

E.R.

Mr. Gannon
Mr. Vought
AS
5/10
CC:

Mr. Scott
8/10
A/R with prev. App
5 OCT 1984
P.A.

- PS/SOS (B&L)
- PS/Mr Scott (B&L)
- PS/PUS (B&L)
- Mr Bourn
- Mr Buxton
- Mr Lyon
- Mr Radcliffe
- Mr Coulson
- Mr Bickham
- Mr McClelland

NOTE OF A MEETING BETWEEN MR SCOTT AND MR NICHOLSON ON WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER 1984
AT 10.30 AT STORMONT CASTLE

Those present:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Mr Scott | Mr Jim Nicholson |
| Mr Coulson | Pastor Bob Bane |
| Mr Pope | Mr James Gibson |
| Mr Hamilton | Mr David Bell |
| Ms Marson | |

Mr Nicholson thanked the Minister for seeing the group. Mr Nicholson said the problem with the Elim Pentecostal Church, in the aftermath of the Darkley massacre, was that it was isolated on the border and it needed protection twice every Sunday.

The structure itself (a pre-fabricated building) would be very difficult to protect and therefore the Church Committee and congregation felt that if half the money could be provided they would move to a safer site and rebuild the church.

Pastor Bane said it was very difficult to encourage people back to church again since the Darkley attack last year.

Mr Nicholson said if the Church was forced to close altogether the attackers would have succeeded. Mr Nicholson felt that this situation was unprecedented and deserving of help.

Mr Bell said the congregation were no longer happy to remain in the building without security. On the other hand, if the Church was to be guarded heavily, it would be made a target. The police had told the Church Committee that there was nothing that could be done to make their building more secure. To date, the only service the Church had been having was one every Sunday morning and one on Sunday evenings once a fortnight. Previously the Church had been in use 4 or 5 nights a week.

E.R.

The Minister said he understood how this tragedy hung over the community. Although there were schemes for criminal compensation and damage, this problem was not covered by any scheme. He did not feel that he could not hold the line where claims could be made by every church, youth clubs even commercial premises which had been attacked or were in danger of possible attack.

The Minister said that the static forces were not the only ones guarding the congregation - there were other more discreet ways in which the Church was kept under observation.

The Minister asked if there was another site in mind and was told there was, but the Church Committee would not be interested in having another sectional building but would now require a substantial brick building. The Minister said he would be prepared to give advice on how the Church Committee could raise money to build a new church.

Mr Nicholson said that survival in his area was dependent on keeping a low profile.

The Minister said that if the Church Committee could work out some more definite proposals about their future church building he would look at ways in which money could be raised from non-public funds.

Mr Coulson said the best security the Church congregation could have was that of an alert security force presence. He said the terrorists were not brave men, and they tended not to attack when they knew security forces were prepared for the possibility of an attack.

The meeting closed with Mr Nicholson again pressing the point that money should be found from public funds.

He also asked that the compensation claims of those victims of the Darkley massacre be speeded up - he mentioned a young widow called Mrs Cunningham. The Minister agreed to look into this case (ACTION PLEASE MR McCLELLAND).

Mr Nicholson invited the Minister to visit the Elim Pentecostal Church. The Minister undertook to write to Mr Nicholson. (ACTION PLEASE MR COULSON).

A.C. Pattison
P.P. CLAIRE MARSON
PS/Mr Scott

4 October 1984