



STORMONT

BELFAST

BT4 3SW

CONFIDENTIAL

File

Mrs D Kenny
Central Secretariat

CONWAY STREET COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES PROJECT LTD

I thought it might be useful to let you have the enclosed copy of the Chairman's letter to Father Wilson setting out the Fund's position on assistance to the Conway Mill project.

Thanks for your help with this.

C Todd

C TODD
IFI Secretariat

19 November 1993

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INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

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Father Des Wilson
Conway Street Community
Enterprises Project Ltd
123 Springhill Avenue
BELFAST
BT12 7QF

29th October 1993

Dear Father Des,

I am writing with a substantive reply to your letter of 1 June in which you suggested a meeting with Fund representatives to discuss how best the Fund might assist Conway Street Community Enterprises Ltd contribute to the economic development of the area. I am conscious that it has taken some time to reply but I felt that before responding to your request I should seek renewed advice given that the Fund had no discretion to support the work of Conway Mill when you last sought assistance in 1990.

As you know the Agreement establishing the Fund provides for the independence of the Board but adds the proviso that all its disbursements "shall be consistent with the economic and social policies and priorities of the respective Governments".

I have now been informed that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has decided that Government funding will continue to be withheld from projects operating in or out of Conway Mill in line with the policy which has operated since 1985 and before the Fund was established. I have also been advised that in the light of this decision it would be inconsistent with the economic and social policies and priorities of the Government of the United Kingdom for the Fund to provide assistance to the Conway Street Community Enterprises Project Ltd. Given this position you will appreciate that the Board of the Fund has no discretion to support the work of Conway Street Mill.

Finally I should say that it was useful to have gone over the ground on the Fund's support to the Springhill Development Agency when we met earlier this year and to hear from you how this support is being put to use. I also understand that the Agency is in discussions with the Fund and other potential funding agencies on plans for the development of a major project in the area.

Yours sincerely

William T McCarter

WILLIAM T McCARTER
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