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FROM: D FELL
3 APRIL 1992

cc PS/Paymaster General (L, DFP) - B
PS/PUS (L&B) - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr J Cowan
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr McCusker
Miss Steele
Mr Petch - B

PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B&L) - B

'BEYOND HATE' CONFERENCE - PARTICIPATION BY THE PRINCE OF WALES

1. Stephen O'Brien, Chief Executive, Business in the Community, has written to the Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales about an approach to him from Paddy Doherty who is anxious to involve the Prince of Wales in a video link as part of a forthcoming conference in Londonderry called 'Beyond Hate'. You may know that the Prince of Wales has met Paddy Doherty several times and is an admirer of his work in Londonderry.
2. The conference is part of an initiative in Londonderry this year, known as IMPACT 92, (the International Meeting Place for the Appreciation of Cultural Traditions). Paddy Doherty and other organisers are hoping to stage 'Beyond Hate' as a major conference on conflict resolution, a theme with its inspiration in a project entitled 'The Anatomy of Hate' which was initiated by Elie Wiesel, the 1986 Nobel Peace Laureate. The proposed conference will be one of a number of similar conferences in the United States, Israel and Norway.
3. The aim of the conference is to bring together a number of international figures prominent in the area of conflict resolution to debate various global issues and also to apply

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some new thinking to the Northern Ireland situation. The sub-text to the conference is that it will provide a major international focus on Londonderry and the ways in which attempts have been made to address conflict in the City; it will also aim to signal a case for an international centre for the study of conflict resolution to be located there. This latter aim may in fact come about through the UN University, which is negotiating with the University of Ulster about the development of a centre of excellence in the area of ethnic studies, including conflict resolution; the most favoured location for this being Magee College, Londonderry.

4. There are a number of sensitive issues involved in the proposition that the Prince of Wales should take part in the conference. First, it is not yet clear whether the organisers can deliver the international audience which they seek, although I understand that Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, is likely to respond positively to an invitation to speak at the conference. Secondly, it is far from clear that they can deliver participation by other prominent international figures in the video conference, which might merit the Prince of Wales' involvement. Thirdly, participation by the Prince of Wales could have political implications. While the standing of Paddy Doherty and others within the Derry community might be able to offset any critical Nationalist reaction, it would be much more difficult to read the Unionist reaction, particularly in the light of Paddy Doherty's known close association with leading members of Sinn Fein in Derry, for example, Mitchell McLaughlin the SF leader in the Council. The Secretary of State might also recall a BBC television programme which alleged financial irregularities in the operation of the Inner City Trust which Paddy Doherty runs.

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While these were not substantiated, the Secretary of State ought to be aware that some have questioned Paddy Doherty's motives.

5. Having consulted with a number of relevant officials (including Joe Cowan in the Londonderry Development Office) my view, on balance, is that if the organisers can deliver a conference of the quality suggested in the background papers, there could at that stage be a case for thinking about the involvement of the Prince of Wales. If we were, I would want to ask for a PAB view, in the light of any other political developments in the meantime, about possible reactions, before making a firm recommendation.
6. The reply to the Private Secretary and the draft letter to Stephen O'Brien makes the point that it is much too early to arrive at a definite decision about the involvement of the Prince of Wales and that this could be looked at again when more information is available. It may well be that the Prince of Wales' diary for the period of the conference, 7-9 September, will not permit any involvement (although there might be a suggestion of a recorded message if the dates were not suitable).
7. The organisers are presently engaged in extensive international lobbying about participation in the conference and CCRU are due to meet them in mid-April to review the latest position and funding arrangements. At that stage a further report will be submitted.
8. I attach for consideration a draft reply to the Prince of Wales' Private Secretary and a draft for him to send to Stephen O'Brien.

DAVID FELL

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