

CONFIDENTIAL

ASST./ SEC 23317
30 JUL 1993
C.C.R.U.
Mr. Carvill

FROM: PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (L)
29 JULY 1993

- cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Atkins (DOE, DED&L) - B/M
- PS/Michael Ancram (DENI, L&B) - B/M
- PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Ledlie - B
- Mr Carvill, DENI - M
- Mr Murray, DOE - M
- Mr Loughran, DED - M
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Williams - B
- Mr Bell - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Foster, LDO - M
- Mr May - B

Mr Carvill
File with carvill
PPS. AC
20/7

UNDER/ SEC 1122/7
30 JUL 1993
CENT SEC

S QUINN - B
CCRU

WEST OF THE FOYLE: THE FUTURE OF THE PROTESTANT COMMUNITY

Thank you for your submission of 24 June, which was discussed in the VCR meeting chaired by the Secretary of State yesterday. You were present, together with Mr Atkins, Michael Ancram, Mr Fell, Mr Murray, Mr Caine and a number of officials.

2. The Secretary of State began by referring to the significant reduction in the number of Protestants on the west bank in Londonderry, from as many as 18,000 25 years ago to around 3,000 now, with only about half of those of voting age. To some extent this was a replication of what has been happening in North Belfast, although it was difficult to see how the claim could be made that the Protestants were being driven out, rather than just moving away.

3. In discussion, it was suggested that this was an irreversible trend. The age structure would ensure that there was an increasingly elderly population and it was very much open to question if large amounts of public money invested in the area would reverse the trend.

CONFIDENTIAL

SOFS/TAT/18609

CONFIDENTIAL

4. There were some useful developments - for instance, construction was to begin on a new primary school next month. This would provide nursery education for the first time in the area and may therefore induce young people to stay. The Housing Executive was keen to up-grade the housing stock in the Fountain area, or perhaps even undertake new build. This may also provide an attractive alternative to the Waterside, although it was estimated that 300/400 was the maximum number of people who could be expected to move back into the Fountain area.

5. Michael Ancram reported that John Hume had made strong representations for the Government to do something in the Protestant Westbank area and had encouraged Ministers to meet the Diamond Trust. Mr Atkins, referring to a conversation with Reg Empey, said the latter had mentioned the fact that he had never experienced so much widespread alienation within the Protestant community. The experience of Protestants on the Westbank may well be the same, particularly in relation to jobs where, for instance, it was said United Technologies had a 97% Catholic workforce. In addition, there was still a feeling that the city centre was for nationalists and not unionists, as was a similar view of Derry City Council. The Foyleside development, with some major anchor tenants such as Marks and Spencer and Dunnes, may help to change that. In relation to the council, a community relations officer had been appointed, but this position was temporarily vacant.

6. The Secretary of State, in conclusion, observed that this decline had been going on for over 20 years and there was little the Government could do to reverse it. It was essential to proceed with the primary school and nursery facility and for the Housing Executive to move with all speed and skill in the Fountain area. It would be very important for the Council to appoint a community relations officer and for CCRU to help that person develop a programme which included the Protestant Westbank. In relation to

CONFIDENTIAL

SOFS/TAT/18609

CONFIDENTIAL

jobs, Foyle side would produce an economic focal point, though, if people were not being attacked going to work, there was no reason why Protestants should not apply for jobs in the Westbank. For the moment, the case for injecting large sums of money into the area was not proven.

SIGNED

KEN LINDSAY
PS/Secretary of State (L)
OAB Ext 6461
29 July 1993

- (3) support for the... Trust, ... City Council;
- (4) ... (too expensive);
- (4) ...
ask PSC for report on perceptions registered?
ask PSC for report on specifics of Derry area
Campbell publication re bank?
- (4) Londonderry Initiative
publicise elements relevant to Fountain.

Handwritten notes:
D.H. ...
...
...

CONFIDENTIAL

SOFS/TAT/18609

M. W. Conroy - for your files. 29/7

WEST OF FOYLE: FUTURE OF PROTESTANT COMMUNITY
28 JULY 1993 DISCUSSION: BULL POINTS

Mr. Conroy
Several duplicate pp
in this file. After
meeting, it can
be filed.
AR
29/7

1. Protestant exodus has been going on for 20+ years.
2. Reflects PIRA violence, change in political control in City, electoral support for SF.
3. Probably unrealistic to believe can be reversed in foreseeable future, but stabilisation might be a realistic objective.

Mr. Conroy
h. average

4. Possible action:

- (a) increase PE investment in housing (to retain and attract back some younger people;

30/7..

- Jim Foster on NIHE plans

- (b) support community developments (Diamond Trust, Wabbling Lane) through and with Derry City Council;

pp

- (c) Foyle College

- ~~single~~ simple site (not necessary; too expensive);

- (d) FEC

- ask and DED for report on perceptions registered?

- ask FEC for report on specifics of Derry area

- G Campbell publication on hook?

- (e) Londonderry Initiative

- publicise elements relevant to Fountain.

No.
D. McAnby
submitted
to Minutes
20 July
covered
this area.

X S General - massive PE injection would not be justified or likely to be successful

SQ/PF 2101