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From: Mr T McCusker  
CCRU  
28 February 1992

cc: Mr Watkins  
Mr Corbett

To: PS/Paymaster General

COMMUNITY RELATIONS VISIT TO THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CONFLICT

1. Arrangements have now been made for the Paymaster General to visit the Centre for the Study of Conflict on Tuesday 3 March and will comprise:
  - 12.00-1.15 - Briefing given by academics of the Centre;
  - 1.15-2.30 - Lunch
2. A background note on the Centre together with the names of individuals which the Paymaster General will meet is attached.
3. The purpose of the visit is to give the Paymaster General an opportunity to meet some of the academics working at the Centre and to be briefed on the work which the Centre undertakes.
4. I will be in attendance at the visit.

[Signed T McC]

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KEY PEOPLE INVOLVED ON VISIT TO THE CENTRE

Professor Seamus Dunn	-	Director of the Centre
Mr Jerry Tyrrell	-	Research Officer at Magee Campus
Dr Tony Gallagher	-	Research Officer at the Centre
Ms Grace Fraser	-	Researcher at the Centre
Mr Dominic Murray	-	Visiting academic from Cork University based at the Centre
Mr Drew Hamilton	-	Senior Lecturer in Social Administration and Policy
Dr Ed Cairns	-	Senior Lecturer in Psychology
Mr Alan Smith	-	Research Officer at the Centre
Dr Valerie Morgan	-	Lecturer in Education
Mr Terry O'Keefe	-	Head of Philosophy and Politics
Professor Derek Burrell	-	Head of Social Admin and Policy
Dr Clem McCartney	-	Research Officer
Mr Kieran O'Maolain	-	Research Officer
*Professor Trevor Smith	-	Vice-Chancellor - University of Ulster
*Professor Aidan O'Reilly	-	Pro-Vice-Chancellor - University of Ulster

\*Attendance for lunch only

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## **BACKGROUND NOTE**

### **CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CONFLICT**

The Centre for the Study of Conflict was founded in 1977 as an inter-disciplinary research centre in the then New University of Ulster. It is currently staffed by nine full-time researchers, a director, an associate director and a secretary. A large number of the academic staff of the University is associated with the Centre and currently 14 of them conduct funded research projects under its auspices.

The Centre receives core funding from the University but the greater part of its income is derived from research grants from government, charitable foundations and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

The main focus of its research is on the conflict in Ireland and, within that, there is a concentration on practical issues to do with institutional and community structures and change. Its most recent research reports have been about the role of the churches in the conflict, employment and unemployment differentials, cross-border relations, and the cultural curriculum of the schools. It is currently working on projects to do with mediation, politics in a divided society, peace education, policy evaluation, educational attainment, parental opinion, and policing a divided society. A full detailed list of these appears later in this report.

More recently the Centre has begun to place greater emphasis on international and comparative issues and has established an Ethnic Studies Network as a means of structuring and promoting this work. The Network currently has over 80 members and is planning an international conference in Northern Ireland in June 1992.

The Centre is also keen to extend the range and form of its publications, and to this end it has recently appointed an information officer who will produce and publish, among other works, a regular briefing about current research in the conflict in Ireland. This will summarise existing and ongoing work in Northern Ireland and elsewhere, and is intended as an information source for academics, policy-makers, the media and others.

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTRE

The aims of the Centre are:-

1. to promote and encourage research on the community conflict in Ireland;
2. to provide a forum for cross-disciplinary and comparative studies;
3. to make an informed and impartial contribution to the public discussion on the conflict;
4. to develop a general and theoretical understanding of conflict from a strong empirical base;
5. to relate research findings to policy and practice;
6. to develop a comparative programme of research on ethnic conflict on an international basis.

The Centre achieves these aims by encouraging the growth of an academic community involved in conflict research, and supporting it through seminars, publications, visiting scholars and liaison with other institutions.

STAFFING

Nine full-time and three part-time researchers were working in the Centre in 1990-91, funded by external grants:-

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Mrs Grace Fraser, Research Officer  
Dr Tony Gallagher, Research and Information Officer  
Ms Melanie Giles, Research Assistant (part-time)  
Dr Clem McCartney, Development Officer  
Ms Carol McClenahan, Research Assistant  
Dr Duncan Morrow, Research Officer  
Dr Dominic Murray, Research Officer (part-time)  
Ms Majella O'Connor, Research Officer  
Mr Ciaran O Maolain, Information Officer  
Mr Jim O'Neill, Research Assistant (part-time)  
Dr Alan Smith, Research Fellow  
Mr Jerry Tyrrell, Research Officer  
Mr Derick Wilson, Research Fellow

Mrs Pat Shortt is secretary to the Centre and Mrs Lyn Moffett is part-time secretary to the Ethnic Studies Network.

Some 18 members of the academic staff, from four faculties, were directly involved in the Centre's activities, 14 of them as named researchers in the Centre's projects.

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Director

Professor Seamus Dunn, Education

Associate Director

Professor John Darby, Social Administration and Policy

Management Committee

Mr Paul Arthur, Philosophy and Politics

Professor Derek Birrell, Social Administration and Policy

Dr Ed Cairns, Psychology

Mr Nicholas Dodge, Sociology and Anthropology

Mr John Galbraith, Finance Officer (ex-officio)

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Dr Tony Gallagher, Research and Information Officer (ex-officio)  
Professor Robert Gavin, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research (ex-officio)  
Mr Andrew Hamilton, Social Administration and Policy  
Dr Clem McCartney, Development Officer (ex-officio)  
Dr Valerie Morgan, Education  
Mr Terence O'Keefe, Philosophy and Politics

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