

COMMUNITY OF THE PEACE PEOPLE

"FREDHEIM", 224 LISBURN ROAD, BELFAST BT9 6GE
TELEPHONE 663465 TELEGRAMS "PEACEP"

September 21, 1993

Lady Mayhew
Deputy Under Secretary
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT4 3ST



Dear Lady Mayhew:

We are writing from the Community of the Peace People. We hope you enjoyed the day you came to our farm in Coleraine. It was very good to meet you and we thought you may be interested in our latest project.

This letter is part of an initiative to establish a memorial dedicated to those killed in the "Troubles" as well as to finding a nonviolent solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland. We will be planting a peace forest where families suffering this loss can come to heal and picnic and enjoy life. We want to establish a positive memorial, not a wall that acts as a barrier, but something that replenishes by giving life. The families have such a need for their dead to be recognised and to grieve in a positive way. Until their pain is addressed and the bitterness resolved it will be impossible to build peace on a solid foundation.

A number of peace and reconciliation groups across Northern Ireland will be coming together to plant the forest. We will also encourage those who have suffered personally, as well as the community as a whole, to be involved in the planting and caring of the forest.

We were recently examining different sites in Belfast when we realised how significant it would be to plant the forest on the grounds of Stormont. We only need a couple of acres and would like the area to be as neutral and accessible, to the people, as possible.

Such a gesture by the State would help build a bridge over the present climate of mistrust between the people experiencing daily violence and those who work for a political, nonviolent solution to the conflict. This is especially true because the barrier to these families healing is a lack of recognition of their great loss.

This project is rather in depth and takes much explaining. Would it be possible to meet with you regarding this issue? We would like to hear your opinion as well as be directed in the steps we must take to get approval for this project.

Best Regards,

Tiffany L. Danitz
Global Nonviolence Project

Antoinette Flynn
Youth for Peace