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ASST/  
SEC 136/12  
20 DEC 1994  
C.C.R.U.

FROM: T McCUSKER  
AS MBW/BAT  
DATE: 19 DECEMBER 1994

cc PS/Sir John Wheeler (B,DFP&L)  
PS/Michael Ancram (B,DENI&L)  
PS/Baroness Denton (DED,DANI&L)  
PS/PUS (B&L)  
PS/Mr Fell  
Mr Legge  
Mr Thomas  
NI Permanent Secretaries  
Mr Bell  
Mr Williams  
Mr Lyon  
Mr Steele  
Mr Watkins  
Mr Hamilton  
Mr Mackenzie  
Mr Cowan  
Mr Canavan 20.12  
Mr Maccabe  
Mr Leach  
Mrs Collins  
Members of the Peacelines  
Working Group

*Handwritten notes:*  
1. ~~Mr. Carson~~  
2. ~~Mr. Price~~  
3. 22/12..  
4. ~~Mr. ...~~  
5. 22/12..  
6. ~~Mr. ...~~  
7. ~~Mr. ...~~  
8. 22/12..

- 1. PS/MR MOSS (DOE,DHSS&L)
- 2. PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B&L)

PEACELINES

- 1. Earlier this year I chaired a Working Group which examined all aspects of the peacelines in Belfast to consider whether there was potential for removing any of them. A copy of the Working Group report, which was endorsed by the Secretary of State, is attached for the Minister's information.
- 2. Essentially the report confirmed the overwhelming view of the Police, community organisations and the statutory bodies most closely involved, that there was no prospect of physical barriers between communities being removed in the foreseeable future and recommended that Government's policy should be to continue to try and soften the image of the peacelines and to encourage organisations like the Community Relations Council and the Action Teams to encourage communities who live beside the peacelines to work more closely together to develop confidence and trust in each other. This, inevitably, is going to take time.

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3. The issue was discussed again recently between Ministers and the Secretary of State following the PIRA ceasefire on 31 August and, while it considered that the conclusions of the Working Group report were still valid, the Secretary of State requested a further review to be carried out in October/November.
4. The Working Group has reviewed the situation again in the light of the current security situation and has again taken into account views from the Civil Representative team and the Action Teams. Our conclusions are:
  - i. there was some anecdotal evidence that communities wanted the physical barriers between them removed as soon as possible, though there was still a great deal of fear on both sides of the community and a consensus that barriers should remain for the time being;
  - ii. there is general agreement among Police, Civil Representatives and Action Team Leaders that it was much too early to take proactive steps towards the removal of physical barriers; and
  - iii. agreement among the working group that the present policy of working towards softening the image of peacelines and building confidence between communities should continue.
5. All the Action Teams are very conscious of the need to build confidence and trust between communities and this will remain a major objective in Action Team strategies. In addition, we have had preliminary discussions with the Community Relations Council about their work in promoting cross community contact and the MBW initiative will be providing some support to the Council to support further work in interface areas.
6. On the question of softening the peacelines, we have reviewed the position again to plan work over 1995 and outline proposals are

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contained in the attached Annex. Most of this is containable within the MBW programme and, subject to Ministerial agreement, we will put this forward for consideration by the Belfast Special Action Group.

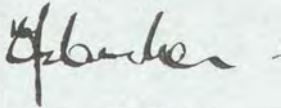
7. The one area which will require some more detailed consideration is the Cupar Way peaceline. This is probably the most well known and photographed peaceline in Belfast and the removal of the existing wall and its replacement by a softer, more subtle barrier would contribute greatly to the quality of life in the area and be a significant illustration of the fact that Belfast was putting its past behind it. Within DOE we are presently considering a comprehensive approach to this area which could include a road link from the WestLink through Cupar Way to the Springvale site (this is not directly related to the Springvale campus proposal though, of course, such a link would be beneficial were the campus to proceed) together with significant housing and business development at the Lanark Way end of the road. The benefits of such an approach would be that the road, imaginatively planned, could provide reassurances to both communities while the developments at Lanark Way could provide additional housing space for the Catholic community and business development opportunities on the Protestant side. Such a proposal is very sensitive in community terms though some informal soundings at community level suggest that, with careful brokering, it might be well received in both communities. It has the added advantage that, if accepted by the communities, it could provide a significant and very tangible expression of a peace dividend. We shall provide a further report as soon as officials have had an opportunity to consider the complex issues involved.
8. The Secretary of State is invited to:-
  - a. note the conclusions of the Working Group on Peacelines that policies should remain as agreed by the Secretary of State earlier in the year in terms of accepting the wishes of

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communities not to remove peacelines, continuing the work to build confidence and trust between communities, and taking whatever opportunities are possible to soften the image of peacelines;

- b. note the proposed work programme in relation to softening the peacelines for 1995; and
- c. note that consideration is being given to a comprehensive set of proposals relating to the Cupar Way peaceline and that a further paper will be provided for Ministers when the various issues involved have been clarified.



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ALLIANCE/GLENBRYN

	£
i. Site clearance/demolition/site protection.	5,000
ii. 300m x 2.25m high wall (or similar) with provisional allowance for 0.5m railing on top (to replace existing corrugated iron fence).	100,000
iii. Planted buffer to new section of structure.	20,000
iv. Railings to protect part of new structure 160m.	20,000
v. Grounds maintenance (2 years).	1,500
vi. Remedial repair/paintwork to existing wall, pillars and closed butted steel strip sheet panels.	25,000
	£171,500

Comment:

The strip between Alliance Crescent and the rear of houses on Alliance Avenue is zoned for industrial/commercial use in the Alliance Development Scheme. If this were to proceed at an early stage, a new peaceline structure along this section might not then be necessary with a consequent reduction in cost.

SPRINGHILL AVENUE

	£
i. Site clearance.	500.00
ii. Clear existing wall sections and treat with armourguard or similar.	2,500.00
iii. Topsoiling, cultivation, tree and shrub planting.	5,000.00
iv. Railing to enclose.	3,000.00
v. Grounds maintenance (2 years).	1,000.00
vi. Remedial works/cleaning of Corry's wall.	2,500.00
	£14,500.00

Comment:

The work is associated with housing redevelopment presently underway in the area.

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RODEN STREET

	£
i. Site clearance.	500.00
ii. Clear existing brick wall, make good deflective posts, treat with armourguard or similar.	4,500.00
iii. Create tree and shrub planting buffer (width varies 3-5.0 metres) including topsoiling.	7,500.00
iv. Railings to protect planting.	15,000.00
v. Maintenance (2 years).	1,500.00
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	£29,000.00

TORRENS/OLDPARK AVENUE

	£
i. Demolition/site preparation.	31,750.00
ii. New works, including new wall, tree and shrub planting and protective railings.	271,500.00
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	£303,250.00

DUNCAIRN/NEW LODGE

	£
i. Provision of gates and treatment of gap sites.	128,800.00
ii. Enterprise Park boundary.	250,000.00
iii. Tree planting along Duncairn Gardens frontage.	46,000.00
iv. Tree planting/paving Duncairn Gardens/Antrim Road.	40,500.00
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TOTAL:	£465,300.00

TOTAL EI PEACELINES BUDGET - 1995

c.£1m

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