

R144 Parly Bldg
58/2000
P - all open a new file
Community Dialogue's pg
attached

FROM: CHRIS STEWART
27 OCTOBER 2000

PS/MR DURKAN, DFP
PS/MR NESBITT

Copy distribution below

INV: 529/2000: MEETING WITH BYRON BLAND, DAVID HOLLOWAY, LEE ROSS (USA) AND FATHER BRIAN LENNON, COMMUNITY DIALOGUE, 11.00 AM TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

John
31/10

1. Both Ministers have agreed to meet with Byron Bland, David Holloway and Lee Ross, Stanford University Centre for Conflict and Negotiation (SCCN) along with Brian Lennon, SJ, Community Dialogue (C.D.) in Parliament Buildings on Tuesday 31 October at 11.00.
2. It would appear that Byron Bland has already met Mr Durkan (and Mr Trimble) when he visited Northern Ireland several years ago. At that point Mr Bland was interested in setting up a dialogue in the US involving different political parties from here. As part of the meeting in Parliament Buildings, Mr Bland and his colleagues would want to review the history of this contact, especially with Mr Durkan, whether it has proved to be positive or not and how they might contribute more effectively in the future. As it would appear that officials have not previously been involved in this contact we are not in a position to advise on the details of this.
3. Additionally, according to Brian Lennon, they (SCCN) will provide an update on their current work with C.D. This involves a recently agreed three year joint study between SCCN and C.D. to assess what it understands about reconciliation, what it does in practice and to help it develop its own strategies in Northern Ireland. At present this work is only starting to get underway.
4. Finally they would also like to have an update on developments in the peace process.
5. The overall aim of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for Mr Bland and his colleagues to renew and establish their relationships with Ministers in the new devolved administration. Fundamentally it will be a listening exercise with no contentious issues expected to be raised.

6. I attach general background information as follows:

PS/First Minister
PS/Key Personalities Attending SCCN/C.D. Meeting – Annex 1
PS/Community Dialogue – Annex 2
PS/Mr Carson

7. Both John Carson, CRU and myself will attend the meeting.

Mr McCusker

Mr Haire

Mr Carson

C F Stewart

Mr May

Ms Crook

Ms Brown

C F STEWART

Community Relations, Human Rights & Victims Division

☎ 28351

Mr O'Connell

Mr Lough

Mr Donohue

Mr Larkin

Mr Keen

Mr McCabe O/R

Mr Ross

Mr Larmann

Mr Pringle

Mrs Congrove

Ms Magee

Mr Carson

Copy Distribution List:

ANNEX 1

PS/First Minister
PS/Deputy First Minister
PS/Mr Haughey
PS/Mr Loughran
Mr Carvill
Mr McCusker
Mr Haire
Mr Canavan
Mr Lavery
Mr May
Ms Croot
Ms Rainey
Ms Dullaghan
Mr McKervill
Mr Campbell
Dr Gudgin
Mr Logue
Mr Barrington
Mr Larkin
Mr Kerr
Mr Ritchie O/R
Mr Ross
Mr Larmour
Mr Pringle
Mrs Cosgrove
Ms Magee
Mr Carson

Key Personalities Attending SCCN/C.D. Meeting on Tuesday 31st October, in Parliament Buildings

Byron Bland is Associate Director of SCCN and has been involved with peace work in Northern Ireland since 1992 and has written on the marching issue, among others.

David Holloway is a Professor of History and Political Science and the Director of the Institute of International Studies (IIS) at Stanford University. He has written on arms control agreements and participated in Stanford's Centre for International Security and Arms Control (CISAC's) Track II effort to formulate a regional security process for the Southern Caucasus.

Lee Ross is Professor of Social Psychology at Stanford University and a Principal Investigator at Stanford Centre on conflict and Negotiation as well as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has helped to initiate and guide public peace processes in the Middle East, Armenia/Azerbaijan, and Northern Ireland.

Ms Brenna Powell, Research Assistant to Byron Bland.

Brian Lennon, SJ, Co-ordinator Community Dialogue.

SCCN/C.D. Meeting on Tuesday 31st October, in Parliament Buildings

Community Dialogue

Community Dialogue was set up in October 1997 by a group of community relations/development workers concerned to promote dialogue as a means to resolve the social and political problems of Northern Ireland. The group has produced (and circulated widely) leaflets on a variety of pertinent, topical issues such as the Belfast Agreement, decommissioning, policing and prisoner releases. These have been used to outline the views of different groups and to encourage discussion, exploration and informed debate about the various issues of concern to all. The group also organises training days, seminars, public meetings and residentials to facilitate single identity and cross community dialogue. The group is managed by an executive with members drawn from a range of community/voluntary sector organisations and currently employs 2 co-ordinators (development and finance/admin) and 2 field workers on a casual basis. Presently, the group is funded to the end of the financial year through the Joseph Rowntree Trust. CRC has contributed project funding to the organisation in the past.

Community Dialogue was awarded a 2 year grant of £30,227 commencing April 2000. This contributes towards the core salary and running costs of the organisation. The group has recently been awarded a further grant of £15,000 to develop its work and raise its profile in 6 specific regions in Northern Ireland. This work will target areas particularly affected by high levels of sectarianism – Antrim, Portadown, Ballymena, Coleraine, North Belfast and Lisburn and will seek to work with those who do not presently engage in dialogue or see it as a means towards building a more inclusive, peaceful society.