



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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*Sen Harkin*  
Mr. Hennessy

I spoke to Messrs. Moriarty (Planning Development) and Macdonald (Roads) about the Omeath/Warrenpoint bridge. There is no more enthusiasm for the proposal now in the Department of the Environment than there has been previously and the same may be presumed to be true of the Northern Ireland Department. The Newry and Mourne Council would not, of course, be in a position to take any action on the proposal without approval and financial support from the Department of the Environment which would probably not be forthcoming; their discussions with Louth about the project are therefore somewhat unrealistic. As far as the Regional Fund is concerned, no application for fund money for a project can be made until national funds for that project are already committed and there seems no likelihood of such a commitment being made by the two administrations concerned. (A feasibility study for a specific project such as this bridge could presumably not be financed from the studies allocation of the Regional Fund).

Since the proposal for the bridge has now been circulating for some time, the ad hoc committee of officials agreed upon by the Subgroup will presumably consider it if only to reject it. In the meantime, the Department of the Environment's reply to Louth will be as non-committal as possible.

*AMC*

9 February 1978