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Security and International Division



PROJECTS TO UTILIZE THE IRELAND FUND

Further to your note dated 31 October to Mr Adams and to my telephone to you I enclose a list (as requested) of possible projects which could draw on the Ireland Fund of the USA.

Two other useful contacts for suggestions are:-

1. Franklin Adair, Chairman of Practical Action.
2. Paul Sweeney, Development Officer, Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust.

- both of these men have a wide knowledge of local community enterprises and an excellent network of contacts in business and community circles.

*HA*  
H HARBINSON  
Central Secretariat  
Stormont Castle

21 November 1985

cc: Mr N Elliott PAB  
Mr N Cowling ESL  
Mr Pearson  
PS/Mr Bloomfield

PK



## PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT UTILIZE THE IRELAND FUND

### DHSS

1. Industrial Therapy Organisation (Ulster) Ltd which is a registered charitable organisation. Its basic objectives are to assist in the rehabilitation and treatment of persons suffering from mental illness by the provision of facilities for work and recreation. It promotes the integration of mentally ill people into the community and into open employment where possible through commercial workshop activities. Until recently has operated only from Downpatrick but has now opened a new factory in Bangor and has plans to develop other units in Antrim and Newry.

### DOE

2. NI Conservation Volunteers, who engage in some cross-border activity. (see 8 below)
3. Community Technical Aid, a cross-community group providing professional and technical aid to local groups in the physical development of their communities eg housing, planning etc.
4. Belfast Development Agency, a voluntary Body supported by Belfast City Council, DOE and private sector. Objectives include job creation, major success so far, the large Portview Centre, Newtownards Road, an old mill which has been converted to a multi unit industrial and commercial centre. BDA now considering future projects but has very limited resources.
5. Flax Trust  
Conversion of old mills in Ardoyne area of Belfast and experiments in job creation. Energetically led by Father Myles Kavanagh, the Trust has a good track record but no resources.  
Further details regarding (2) from Mr J Beckett, DOE, Parliament Buildings; (3) from Mr N Hamilton, DOE, Parliament Buildings; (4) and (5) Mr G Loughran, Commonwealth House, Belfast.

### DENI

DENI suggests that the following areas merit support from the Ireland Fund:-

6. NIACRO, (Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders), a group which deals with the rehabilitation of offenders, also does some work



with difficult school pupils, especially those who are deviant or poor attenders. NIACRO would be given money to employ teachers to assist in the latter aspect of its work.

7. CRUSE, an association which counsels the bereaved, is about to launch an education pack for schools. The cost of this pack will be £2. Additional finance would enable them to make a free distribution of its materials to schools and perhaps employ a professional counsellor.
8. CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS (established in Northern Ireland by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers in 1983) might merit support for the promotion of projects in schools, again across the religious divide, for the improvement of the local environment. This group sought help from DENI, which did not have the money to assist it.
9. SOCIAL STUDY CONFERENCE (held annually since 1952): The theme of the next conference is Reconciliation and Dr Benn, a member of the Executive Committee, (also former Secretary of this Department and former Ombudsman), has approached DENI in relation to financial help. This Conference might deserve some support from the Ireland Fund.
10. LINENHALL LIBRARY: While the library may not fall within the "stimulate employment" category, it does satisfy other criteria - community development-type projects with an element of self-help and measurable achievement. It provides a cultural service not only for Belfast and the Province but also claims to provide for researchers from abroad - particularly the USA. The Ireland Fund may be able to assist with the Library's running costs or with a specific project eg a computerised system.
11. INTEGRATED EDUCATION: In September 1985, 3 new integrated schools opened in Belfast. All of them will have to be funded independently until they can prove their viability. The schools are:
  - a. Forge Primary School - operates under the auspices of All Children Together.
  - b. Hazelwood School and Hazelwood College, provide primary (including nursery) and secondary education respectively. They were set up by the Belfast Charitable Trust for Integrated Education (BELTIE).



12. THE ARTS COUNCIL: DENI would be in favour of a grant to the Arts Council for the promotion of residential drama courses which would aim at bringing together young people from across the religious divide.

DED

13. Local Enterprise Development Unit (LEDU) runs the Local Enterprise Programme which is designed to provide a framework of financial support and assistance to local enterprise groups, often associated with District Councils, with sound plans to stimulate economic activity and job creation within their own area.

The programme has helped to establish a total of 21 local enterprise groups, drawn from 22 District Council areas, with several more currently under consideration. Mr V Kozeill, a Dublin based representative of the Ireland Fund, has already met LEDU representatives to discuss possible support for these groups.

14. Action for Community Employment (ACE)

- a) Enterprise Carrick;
- b) Carrickfergus YMCA;
- c) Ardoyne Industrial Development;
- d) Workspace, Draperstown;
- e) Newry and Mourne Co-operative;
- f) Dungannon Parish Development Association, and
- g) Ebrington Business Development Centre, Londonderry.

Details of these community groups will be provided on request to DED.

15. Youth Training Programme (YTP)

- a) Assistance for disabled young people:

The NI Council for Orthopaedic Development currently employs a specialist development officer whose job is to assist disabled school leavers to cope with Youth Training Programme (YTP) training courses and then to help them into permanent employment. This post is presently funded by the YTP Scheme. The agreement with NICOD will come to an end on 30 September 1986 and it is unlikely that that organisation will be able to fund the post after that date. The present incumbent of the post is doing a valuable and worthwhile job and it would certainly be helpful if her salary etc could be met out of the Ireland Fund.



b) Strabane Community Enterprises Ltd :

Mr Michael Harron, the chairman of Strabane Community Enterprises Ltd, recently approached YTP Division with regard to financial support for his work in developing small businesses in the Strabane area. The Division was unable to help, but Mr Harron's activities would seem to fall within the scope of the Ireland Fund.

c) North/South visits and exchanges:

Groups of YTP trainees (mainly from community workshops) participate in visits and exchanges to the Republic of Ireland and elsewhere as an enhancement of their training and personal development whilst in the Youth Training Programme. Whilst such exchanges are encouraged the group concerned must obtain as much non-YTP funding as possible eg from the British Council. It would be helpful if the Ireland Fund could be added to the list of possible sources of finance. Although such visits and exchanges are not directly concerned with the stimulation of employment, they are a Youth Training Programme tool to widen the horizons and experience of 16 and 17 year olds and generally to help mature the young people into responsible adults.

d) Belfast Information Technology Service Ltd:

BITS is an independent company, whose directors are drawn from the teaching staff of Queen's University and the Management Committee of Quest ITeC Ltd (a community workshop within YTP).

The company has been set up to stimulate employment through product development and to provide a training service in information technology. Its facilities will be open to young people and adults alike. The company is currently in receipt of a small pump priming grant from the Department of Trade and Industry but it is expected to become self-supporting in due course. However, until it achieves financial viability, further support is required from another source.