

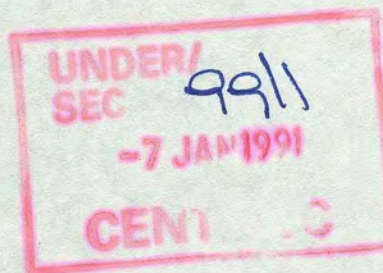
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cc: Mr Hamilton
Mr Wood
Mr Walker
Mr Henry

From: Mr T McCusker
CCRU

7 January 1991

To: PS/Minister of State



ULSTER SOCIETY PROJECTS - PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Arrangements have now been completed for the visit to Dan Winter's cottage on 9 January at 10.00am. A draft press release is attached for approval.
2. Those to be present at the cottage to meet the Minister of State include:-

Mr D Trimble MP
Mr R Hanna, Secretary to the Society
Mr G Lucy - recently appointed Oral History Supervisor
Mr and Mrs Winter
Mr John Laird, member of the Society and former Assemblyman

Because of the change of date for the announcement there is some doubt about Mr Trimble's attendance, but officials of the Society are still trying to sort out the details.

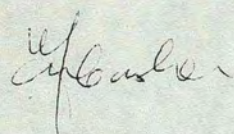
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3. Funding for the Ulster Society is to support:-

- i. a publications officer for three years to promote the Society's publications on cultural traditions - £12,000 per annum;
- ii. a three year oral history project on border Protestants - £15,000 per annum; and
- iii. an investment appraisal on the development of an Interpretative Centre at Dan Winter's Cottage - £5,000

Total expenditure in 1990/91 will be around £10,000 and in 1991/92 £32,000. The press release refers to full three year costs.


T MCCUSKER

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Release.

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DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

9 JANUARY 1991

MAJOR FUNDING BOOST FOR ULSTER SOCIETY

Dr Brian Mawhinney MP, Minister of State, with responsibility for community relations, today announced a three year programme of financial support for a number of initiatives to be undertaken by the Ulster Society under the Cultural Traditions Programme.

Announcing details of the financial package during a visit to Loughgall earlier today Dr Mawhinney said the package will enable the Ulster Society to appoint two members of staff to co-ordinate publications on its behalf, and to develop in some depth a study of Protestant culture as it is, and has developed, along the border.

Money will also be provided he said, to enable a feasibility study to be undertaken into the creation of an interpretative centre at Dan Winter's cottage in Loughgall, Co Armagh, which is recognised as the place where the Orange Order was founded in Ireland towards the end of the 18th century.

Total funding for the Society in the next three years will be in the region of £75,000.

Speaking during a visit to the cottage Dr Mawhinney said:-

"The Cultural Traditions Programme which I launched in 1989 has made a significant contribution to greater mutual understanding about the different traditions in Northern

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Ireland. The aim is to encourage interest and appreciation of cultural diversity which need not be threatening or divisive to any community.

"This latest series of grants to the Ulster Society is to support publications and studies which portray cultural traditions from a British/Ulster perspective. The development of the projects is aimed at the whole community to increase mutual understanding through objective analysis of historical events and to encourage dialogue."

Commenting on the feasibility study relating to Dan Winters cottage, Dr Mawhinney said:-

"This site has historic importance for a large selection of the Northern Ireland community, and with sensitive planning it should be possible to establish a centre which would provide an interpretative and educational facility which the whole community could access. Obviously the Study which we are funding would keep uppermost the wishes of the Winter family and I am grateful to them for allowing the study to go ahead."

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Ulster Society was established in June 1985 to promote an awareness and appreciation of a distinctive Ulster/British culture and heritage in its rich and varied forms, embracing language, drama, poetry, music, folk lore, symbolism and history.

Funding will be provided to support a post of publications officer for the Society for three years and also a three year study of Protestant culture in the border areas. The feasibility study is to examine the potential of an interpretative centre at the site of Dan Winter's cottage, County Armagh to portray the history and heritage of the Orange movement, and is being carried out by a firm of Consultants. The results of the study should be known some time after Easter 1991.

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