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cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B)
PS/Mr Mates (L&B)
PS/Mr Hanley
PS/PUS
PS/Mr Fell
Mr Ledlie
Mr Thomas
Mr Alston
Mr Maxwell
Mr Maccabe
Mr D A Hill
Mr Rickard
Mr McNeill, NIB

From: Mr T McCusker
17 September 1992

To: Mr D J Watkins

BEYOND HATE CONFERENCE

1. I was only able to attend the Tuesday sessions of the Beyond Hate conference, but by all accounts the overall event was very successful, despite the controversy surrounding the attendance of President Robinson and the refusal of the DUP Mayor to meet her on Sunday 6 September.
2. The Mayor did in fact attend the Monday session of the conference and I understand that he did fairly well and there was little acrimony about his actions on the previous day. The attendance of Sinn Fein members as delegates and observers also passed without any significant problem and they joined fully in the debates which included both SDLP and Alliance contributions. Unionists were very thin on the ground. Glen Barr made a token attendance at one of the lunches and as part of the community outreach section of the conference delegates visited some of his community programmes.

3. The highlight of the conference was of course the Monday evening session with the former Beirut hostages. According to everyone this was an emotionally charged evening which drew a capacity audience and the pleas for reconciliation by these men who had suffered so much left no one unaffected.
4. A slight note of controversy did creep into the Tuesday afternoon session when William Flynn, Mutual Life of America insurance Co, and one of the sponsors and leading activists in the conference, proposed a motion that the conference should send a message of condolence to the Fox family following the murder of their parents over the previous weekend. This generated a short but intense debate about selective condemnation of violence which also included an interesting contribution from Martin McGuinness in which he called for an expression of sympathy to all those affected by violence, including the security forces. The debate ended with the rare expression of agreement between Martin McGuinness and Mark Durkin calling on the conference organisers to frame a resolution of general sympathy for the victims of violence.
5. It is always difficult to measure the outcomes of conferences but for the people of Derry there seems to have been genuine pride that they could show to an influential international audience that the processes of reconciliation in the city appeared to be working and that people could accommodate their deepest differences in a non-violent way. The conference itself received considerable publicity locally and I am fairly certain

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that when the proceedings are published these will serve to generate much further discussion.

[Signed]

T McCUSKER

1. Grant for the year 1992-1993 for funding under the Community Development Programme.
2. The Department of Finance and Personnel, acting through the Central Statistical Office, is prepared to pay grant to the Centre for Community Development (the Centre) for the work described below.
3. Aims, objectives and description of work.
 - to assist in the work of the Centre in the Conference in recognition of the importance of relations to community relations and the quality of research material anticipated from the conference.
4. The Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) shall be responsible for payment of the following:
 - A contribution of £25,000 towards the costs of the Beyond Hate Conference.
5. Grant will be subject to the following conditions:
 - 5.1 No changes may be made in the aims, objectives, scope, design or methods of the project as outlined above without prior approval, given in writing, from DFP.
 - 5.2 The funds shall be used by the Centre only for the purpose of furthering the aims and objectives specified above. The organisation must inform DFP of any relevant events such as changes in circumstances or incidents involving misuse of public funds which occur during the period for which grant has been

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