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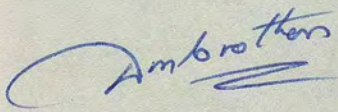
To: M Maxwell
Central Secretariat

cc Mr N Hamilton

From: D M Crothers
DOE Local Government Division

CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH WEST OF IRELAND

1. We have had a request from John Stevenson, the Chief Executive of Limavady Borough Council, to try and help secure the attendance of the Secretary of State at the above Conference. Apparently, on the Irish Side, Senator Paddy Magowan has all but guaranteed the attendance of the Taoiseach. Given that the Conference venue is Londonderry, it would seem appropriate therefore that the Secretary of State should attend, if at all possible.
2. I understand Central Secretariat has had some past involvement with the organisers of the event, the North-West Region Cross Border Group. Could I leave it to you therefore to process the request to ensure that the principal guests are available on the same day - assuming of course that you are happy for the Secretary of State to attend.
3. Some details about the Conference are attached. According to John Stevenson, the Conference organisers can arrange a date to suit the principal guests within the first 3 weeks of November.
4. If I can be of any assistance please let me know.


D M CROTHERS
Local Government Division

5 August 1993

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CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH WEST OF IRELAND

1. Intention

A major conference on the North West of Ireland is planned for mid November 1993. The conference is being organised under the banner of the North West Region Cross Border Group, a four Council grouping supported by the EC Interreg Programme.* Other agencies will be invited to participate in this conference including those working on a cross border basis i.e. ERNACT, ECOM, North West Consortium and Strabane/Lifford Development Commission. The Cross Border Group is presently in discussions with these agencies on this single conference.

2. Aims of Conference

The conference will focus on the integrated approach to economic development being developed in this Region and will demonstrate the co-ordination of a single economic development strategy for the region.

In short, the aims of the conference are twofold:

- a) To portray a cohesive approach to economic development in the North West Region
- b) To articulate the economic development strategy for the North West Region

This conference will substantiate the submission to be made in September, 1993 to the European Commission by the North West for inclusion in the Community Initiatives Programme, namely Interreg Funding. It will clearly present the Region's orientation to working together at regional level to further the economic advancement of the North West as a whole.

3. Logistics of Conference

The details of the conference are as follows:

1. TARGET AUDIENCE: European Commission
National Governments
Development Agencies
European Partners
Elected Representatives
Local Business Sectors
Higher Education Establishments
Community Development Groups
2. LOCATION: Derry
3. DATE: Mid November
4. ESTIMATED COST OF CONFERENCE: ~~£ 40,000~~
£ 20,000.00 approximately (costings to be
firmed up as soon as possible)

* The North West Region Cross Border Group comprises:-

Derry City Council
Donegal County Council
Limavady Borough Council
Strabane District Council

The aim of the Group is:-

"To implement the North West Study" which was launched in 1990
by the then Taoiseach, Charles Haughey and the then Secretary
of State, Peter Brooke.

The North West Study was funded by the British and Irish
Governments and the E.C.

14/8

ESK IMMEDIATE

FROM: M T H MAXWELL
AS CENT SEC
DATE: 4 AUGUST 1993

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B
PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Mr Fell - B
Mr Ledlie - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Williams - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Cooke - B
Mrs Collins - B
Mrs Kenny
HMA Dublin - B
Mr Archer, RID - B

Mrs M. Kibbin

MRS J BLACK - B

NORTH WEST REGION CROSS BORDER GROUP: CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH WEST OF IRELAND

1. Thank you for your minute of 3 August about the enquiry from Mr Stevenson, the Chief Executive of Limavady Borough Council, about the availability of the Secretary of State to attend a conference on the economic development of the North West of Ireland, organised by the North West Region Cross Border Group.
2. The first point to make is that there is no question of giving Mr Stevenson any belief that the Secretary of State would in principle attend this conference. Leaving aside the fact that Mr Stevenson has not given any detail of the conference proceedings, who the speakers will be, or who will be attending, any conference organised by the North West Region Cross Border Group is unlikely to merit the involvement of a senior political presence. I understand that the Group have employed for a period of 6 months a young female assistant, Ms Shirley McKay,

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whose salary and secretarial support, have been funded from Interreg, and that she has been engaged in collecting basic factual data about the area to support a further tranche of money from Interreg II. It is possible that the proposed conference may be related to her findings. In any event, I am quite sure that we would not be recommending that the Secretary of State should attend.

3. As for the securing of the Taoiseach's attendance by Senator Magowan, I doubt whether the Secretary of State will be impressed by this, and indeed I suspect that he will not be too happy to have been "bounced" once again by the Taoiseach and Senator Magowan in this way. Mr Williams might wish to consider how we might seek to avoid this type of invitation, perhaps through the adoption by the Taoiseach's Department of similar guidelines to those recently drawn up for visits by President Robinson to Northern Ireland.
4. My advice therefore is that when Mr Stevenson rings back tomorrow, you suggest that he writes in the normal way, but leave him with no expectation whatsoever that the Secretary of State would be inclined to attend his conference.

(Signed MTHM)

M T H MAXWELL

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IMMEDIATE

FROM: JACQUELINE BLACK
POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
3 AUGUST 1993

*Mrs. Keating
Could you be. agent
previous 1924. + then
disent.
3/8*

ASST MM 68/8
SEC 04 AUG 1993
CENT SEC

cc PS/Secretary of State (B&L)	- B
PS/PUS (B&L)	- B
PS/Mr Fell	- B
Mr Ledlie	- B
Mr Thomas	- B
Mr Watkins	- B
Mr Williams	- B
Mr Bell	- B
Mr Cooke	- B
Mrs Collins	- B
HMA Dublin	- B
Mr Archer, RID	- B

Mr Maxwell - B

NORTH WEST REGION CROSS BORDER GROUP: CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH WEST OF IRELAND

John Stevenson, the Chief Executive of Limavady Borough Council, telephoned yesterday afternoon to enquire about the availability of the Secretary of State to attend a conference on the economic development of the North West of Ireland, organised by the North West Region Cross Border Group.

2. You will recall from previous requests, the North West Region Cross Border Group comprises Derry City Council, Limavady Borough Council, Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council. The aim of the group is to implement the North West Study, which was launched in 1990 by the then Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, and the then Secretary of State, Peter Brooke. The study was funded by both Governments and by the EC.

3. The conference, to be held in Londonderry in late October or November 1993, will focus on the integrated approach to economic development being developed in the North West Region and will demonstrate the co-ordination of a single economic development strategy for the region. The conference will back up the submission to be made in September to the EC for inclusion in its Interreg Programme.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

4. Organisers hope that both the Secretary of State and the Taoiseach will be able to attend, and to that end will arrange the conference for a date which is mutually convenient. Unfortunately Senator McGowan from Donegal has (once again) jumped the gun and apparently already invited and secured the attendance of the Taoiseach on 29 October. I understand that the organisers have informally spoken to the Secretary of State's office to explore diary dates, but that he is not free on that day.

5. The Taoiseach attended the launch of the group's Secretariat in Londonderry in April of this year (on which occasion Senator McGowan also appears to have been instrumental in approaching the Taoiseach in advance of approaching the Secretary of State) and the organisers on this occasion are keen that the Secretary of State should also attend. Mr Stevenson is meeting Senator McGowan on Thursday 5 August and is anxious to know whether the Secretary of State would in principle attend the conference, and how to take the matter forward. I intend to suggest he write in the normal way, provided you are content.

6. This minute provides copy recipients with advance warning of a further proposed visit to Northern Ireland by the Taoiseach, the implications of which will need to be addressed together with the merits of the individual case.

[Signed]

J A BLACK (MRS)

SH EXT 27090

C O N F I D E N T I A L

11187/LO