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18th May, 1979.

Dear Mr. Barr,

I wish to acknowledge the recent receipt of your letter of 3 April with enclosed copy of your Group's "Documents for Discussion" which you addressed to the Taoiseach, Mr. J. Lynch. In reply the Taoiseach has asked me to say that while the policy advocated by your Group differs significantly from that pursued by the Government it is nonetheless welcome as a contribution to the debate on ways in which the reconciliation of the two parts of the community in Northern Ireland and between all Irish people can be achieved and, with it, an end to the violence and destruction which has so blighted the lives of ordinary men and women in Northern Ireland.

As you will be aware the Taoiseach announced last year the setting up of a Fianna Fáil Study Group to review all aspects of the Northern Ireland problem. This Group have been working assiduously and it is expected that their report will be published later this year. Your Group's discussion papers have been sent to them for consideration in the context of the various suggestions which they have received.

Yours sincerely,

B. McCARTHY

Private Secretary.

Mr. Glen Barr,
Chairman,
New Ulster Political Research Group,
c/o 76 Hollywood Road,
BELFAST.

Private Secretary,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

For information, please.

B. McCARTHY

W. Murray
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May, 1979.

Dear Mr. Barr,

I wish to acknowledge the recent receipt of your letter of 3 April with enclosed copy of your Group's "Documents for Discussion" which you addressed to the Taoiseach, Mr. J. Lynch.

In reply the Taoiseach has asked me to say that while the policy advocated by your Group differs significantly from that pursued by the Government it is nonetheless welcome as a contribution to the debate on ~~political options for Northern Ireland.~~

ways in which political change can contribute to the reconciliation of the two halves of the community in Northern Ireland and between all Irish men and women with a view to bringing about an end to the violence and destruction which has so blighted the lives of ordinary men and women in Northern Ireland

As you will be aware the Taoiseach announced last year the setting up of a Fianna Fáil Study Group to review all aspects of the Northern Ireland problem. This Group have been working assiduously and it is expected that their report will be published later this year.

Your Group's discussion papers ~~are being brought to the attention of the Fianna Fáil Study Group for consideration in the context of the various suggestions which they have received in connection with their review of North South relations in all aspects.~~

Yours sincerely,

P. Lee
DPA
for info re

Private Secretary.

Mr. Glen Barr,
Chairman,
New Ulster Political Research Group,

Can be achieved and with it, NB.

answer this.

16th May, 1979.

Dear Mr. Barr,

I wish to acknowledge the recent receipt of your letter of 3 April with enclosed copy of your Group's "Documents for Discussion" which you addressed to the Taoiseach, Mr. J. Lynch. In reply the Taoiseach has asked me to say that while the policy advocated by your Group differs significantly from that pursued by the Government it is nonetheless welcome as a contribution to the debate on ways in which the reconciliation of the two parts of the community in Northern Ireland and between all Irish ^{people} can be achieved and, with it, an end to the violence and destruction which has so blighted the lives of ordinary men and women in Northern Ireland.

As you will be aware the Taoiseach announced last year the setting up of a Fianna Fáil Study Group to review all aspects of the Northern Ireland problem. This Group have been working assiduously and it is expected that their report will be published later this year. Your Group's discussion papers have been sent to them for consideration in the context of the various suggestions which they have received.

Yours sincerely,

Private Secretary.

Private Secretary,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

For information, please.

Mr. Glen Barr,
Chairman,
New Ulster Political Research Group,
c/o 76 Holywood Road,
BELFAST.

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Mr. Kirwan,

Draft reply to Mr. Glen Barr submitted.

As you are aware we had some preparatory work done in relation to a P.Q on the New Ulster Political Research Group's report. The P.Q. was in the event disallowed on the basis that the Taoiseach had no function or official responsibility in relation to this report. While mindful of the source of the "discussion paper" I think for the reasons set out in my earlier note (tabbed) we should react as positively as we can to Glen Barr's letter and I have drafted a suggested reply, for signature by Mr. Mc Carthy, accordingly.

Mr. McCarthy
15/5

Mr. Nally

I support the idea of giving as positive a reply as is prudent to the communication from Mr. Barr while the terms of reference given to the Group which produced the paper were to develop a constitutional and political policy on behalf of the UDA a body which, of course has a bloody record, the change in position in the paper produced is significant in looking to a British disengagement, the concentration on building a consensus in support of the constitutional arrangements proposed, with emphasis on safeguards, protection of rights etc. By the benevolent of those involved, I think the absence of reprisal killing in response to such incident as the La Mure explosion, the Rags Day killing the murder of Airey Neave and recent killings of members of the security force must be seen as very significant.

14 Bealtaine, 1979.

This is a serious issue but I think that a reply is in order. (We do not normally comment where there is an association with violence)

I have slightly amended the draft to strike a note of concern not for abstract political objectives but for the ordinary lives of ordinary people.



ROINN AN TAOISEACH
DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

14 May, 1979

Mr. Glen Barr,
Chairman,
New Ulster Political Research Group

Dear Mr. Barr,

I have been asked by the Taoiseach to acknowledge the recent receipt of your letter of 3 April with enclosed copy of your Group's "Documents for Discussion".

In reply the Taoiseach has asked me to say that while the policy advocated by your Group differs significantly from that pursued by the Government it is nonetheless welcome as a contribution to the debate on political options for Northern Ireland. As you will be aware the Taoiseach announced last year the setting up of a Fianna Fail Study Group to review all aspects of the Northern Ireland problem. This Group have been working assiduously and have produced a number of position papers which are now under consideration by the Fianna Fail Parliamentary Party. It is expected that the Group's report will be published later this year.

In the meantime your Group's discussion papers are being brought to the attention of the Fianna Fail Study Group for consideration in the context of the various suggestions which they have received in connection with their review of North South relations in all aspects.

Yours sincerely,

Private Secretary.