

PC 56/111  
E.B.  
10/194/OP

CONFIDENTIAL

cc: PS/Sir Ewart Bell  
Mr Bloomfield - DED  
Mr Barry - DOE  
Mr Bourn  
Mr Merifield

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Mr Carvill  
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Mr Reeve

CONWAY STREET COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We have been asked by both DED and DOE for advice on two separate applications from Conway Street Community Development for various forms of Government funding. The group are seeking around £70,000 from LEDU and have also approached DOE for assistance under their Urban Development Grant Scheme.

2.

Our initial view, therefore, is that it would be entirely inappropriate for us to allow the group to receive Government sponsorship.

3. In view of the close links the Conway Street organisation has with Sinn Fein/PIRA and recent discussion at PCC on the general question of the relationship between Government and community groups, Mr Reeve has asked me to circulate the attached papers and to seek views. Should we refuse to provide funds? If we do, will we encounter any legal problems and how should we seek to justify our decision in public?

4. In the past couple of months we have heard one or two reports that various community groups, dominated by paramilitary influence, are in receipt of Government money. This is a worrying phenomenon and one which perhaps requires further consideration. If you felt that there would be any advantage in meeting to discuss the problem in more detail we would be very happy to participate.

S Hewitt  
S G HEWITT  
Political Affairs Division  
November 1984

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