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From: O KIRK
Parades Review Project Team
14 April 1997

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C.C.R.U.
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- cc: PS/Secretary of State (B&L) -B
- PS/Sir John Wheeler (B&L) -B
- PS/ Michael Ancram (B&L) -B
- PS/PUS (B&L) -B
- PS/Sir David Fell -B
- Mr Steele -B
- Mr Thomas -B
- Mr Leach -B
- Mr Watkins -B
- Mr Bell -B
- Mr Stephens -B
- Mr Daniell -B
- Mr Wood (B&L) -B
- Mr T Smyth
- Mr Buchanan
- Mr Perry -B
- Mrs Collins -B
- Mr Maccabe -B
- Mr Beeton -B
- Mr Priestly -B
- Mr Strain -B
- Mrs Jones
- Mr Keers

L. C. / 16.4

- 1. Mr Webb [SW 14.4.97]
- 2. Mr Steele - B

North Report file
[Signature]

CONSULTATION EXERCISE: OUTCOME

1. The Secretary of State announced a consultation period on the recommendations of the North Report on 30 January in the House of Commons. The consultation exercise ended on 31 March. Mr Smyth has submitted advice to the Secretary of State recommending, as announced, that the decision will fall to the incoming administration.

2. At the time of writing, the Parades Review Project Team has received 123 written submissions. There have been 22 meetings at which various parties responded to the North report. There is at Annex A a list of those who made written submissions and a list of meetings (Annex B).

3. Of the 123 written submissions, 56 were sent in by various organisations (including Orange Lodges) and 67 by individuals. 73

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were against the implementation of North's recommendations (especially that the Commission should have adjudicatory powers) and 32 are broadly supportive of implementation. The remainder either expressed no opinion on this issue or did not come down firmly either way. Of the 73 against North, 38 are identical in wording and some are merely photocopied and signed.

4. Those submissions opposing a Parades Commission pursue very similar arguments, whether from Unionist parties, marching orders or individuals. They argue that there is a right to march, inferred from ECHR and ICCPR, and believe that their civil, human and religious rights are infringed by any attempt to restrict parades. At the same time, several, like the UUP, propose a "categorisation" of parades which would effectively permit only traditional parades.

5. There has been a passionate outcry against the setting up of a Parades Commission from the marching orders. They emphasise that parades are to them an expression of their traditions, culture, history and religious beliefs and see any attempt to regulate parades as an attack on Protestant culture. They are angry and frustrated that this "attack" is coming from the Government. They believe its agenda is to appease militant Nationalism by setting up the Parades Commission, but stress that residents' groups, which are simply fronts for Sinn Fein, will always come back for more. The submissions are against the creation of no-go areas and residents' veto on parades.

6. Other criticisms include the accusation that the Parades Commission itself is biased towards Nationalists - many point out that there is an active Nationalist politician on the membership and are unhappy that there are no Unionist politicians on board. They also argue that the mediation and adjudication roles are incompatible and that the Commission would be unelected and unaccountable. The marching orders claim to be implacably opposed to a commission with decision-making powers.

7. The response from those favouring a Parades Commission with decision-making powers has been less unanimous. Some give

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unqualified support for North's recommendations and seek immediate and full implementation. Many of those come from church groups and others from the centre ground. However, most fall into a "something must be done" attitude and see a Parades Commission as the only available, if flawed, option.

8. There have been relatively few responses from the Nationalist community. The SDLP came out in favour of full implementation and rather bizarrely suggested the establishment of "group offences" in a parade situation, rather than having to go through the prosecution of individuals. Nationalist submissions stress feelings of intimidation, oppression and humiliation provoked by the perceived triumphalism of Loyal Order parades. Some seek a total ban on all parades, but most would prefer that they be routed out of Catholic areas. Characteristic are calls for "reduced quantity and improved quality" of parades.

9. Those who are in favour of a Parades Commission argue the necessity of an independent commission to take decisions as the RUC are not seen as impartial by Nationalists, some pointing out the number of police officers who are members of the Orange Order. Most believe that the Parades Commission should have an adjudicatory role and that their decisions should not be subject to reversal.

10. Most submissions not opposing the Report urge the Government to act immediately to prevent a reoccurrence of the events of last summer and argue that the sooner the recommendations are implemented, the better the chance of avoiding violence this summer.

11. Summaries of each submission are available from the Parades Review Project Team.

[signed]

Olivia Kirk

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Annex A

List of Submissions on the Consultation Exercise

- Index:
1. W Power, Invincible Star of Ulster, LOL 39, Portadown
 2. Pastor C K McClinton
 3. Anonymous
 4. Mr Campbell, Londonderry
 5. P M Ventress, York
 6. B Meehan, Belfast
 7. R S Haslett, Solicitor
 8. B Peirson, Leamington Spa
 9. Fr L Donnelly, SJ, Limerick
 10. W Mitchell, Hillsborough
 11. Cllr M Langhammer, Newtownabbey
 12. H Grieve, Belfast
 13. Dr M Fitzduff, Community Relations Council
 14. J Cousins, Belfast
 15. R Carson, LOL 1511, Ballinlea
 16. J Winter, British Irish Rights Watch
 17. Ulster Democratic Party
 18. Lt.Col. White, Helen's Bay
 19. J Selfridge, Coleraine
 20. J Young, Reading
 21. T Carlin, Irish Congress of Trades Unions
 22. W Logan, Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth
 23. P Golledge, Bognor Regis
 24. W Harper, Omagh Community Police Liaison Committee
 25. P Mageean, Committee on the Administration of Justice
 26. Dr Stevens, Irish Council of Churches
 27. Rev Kirkland, Ballyclare
 28. V Hamilton, Holywood
 29. Bangor District LOL 18
 30. A Houston, Belfast
 31. G Williamson, Secretary, Lisburn District LOL 6
 32. N Smyth, Confederation of British Industry
 33. A Carton, Belfast

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34. J Donaldson, Tullycarnet Residents' Association
35. R Davidson, Newtownards
36. C McIlveen, Newtownards
37. W J Elwood, Temperance Guiding Star of Ballymacarrett,
LOL 265
38. Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Armagh
39. Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland
40. W Kirk, LOL 15, Comber District
41. J Don Bloom, Cambridgeshire
42. Northern Ireland Women's Coalition
43. Col. Sir Dennis Faulkner, Regimental Association of
the Ulster Defence Regiment
44. R Gardiner, Portadown
45. H P Hall, Hampshire
46. Dr Armstrong, Bognor Regis
47. C Turnan
48. R Sloan
49. K Sloan
50. J Donaldson
51. R Miskelly
52. I Chestnutt, Mosside Rising Sons of Ulster
53. A & J Quilley, Northern Ireland Committee of Quaker
Peace and Service
54. D McGoran, Secretary, Standing Advisory Commission on
Human Rights
55. D Black, Hon. Secretary, Lisnadill Guiding Star LOL 174
56. T Campbell, Drumbo
57. A Horner, Secretary, Ballyclare Purple Star LOL 688
58. K Faloon, Secretary, Randalstown District LOL22 and
Staffordstown LOL 15 Parades Committee
59. W Moore, Randalstown District LOL 22
60. R Gardiner, Secretary, Ballylane True Blues LOL 479
61. P Arbuckle, Secretary, Gwynn's Temperance LOL 419
62. W Hull
63. W McIlroy, Newtownards
64. S Boyd, Secretary, Kilroot True Blues LOL 1544
65. M McGuinness, Markethill, Co Armagh
66. J McGuinness, Markethill, Co Armagh

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67. T Crawford, Newtownbutler
68. J Clancy, Meath Peace Group
69. W Long, Dungannon
70. Steve McBride, Justice Spokesman, Alliance Party
71. R Carroll
72. J Stewart, General Secretary, Communist Party of Ireland
73. Officers and Brethren of Royal Standard LOL 347
74. Dr Ian Paisley MP MEP, Democratic Unionist Party
75. C Whiteside of Newry
76. P Harris of Kilkeel
77. N Christian, Acting Secretary, Currach Community
78. Very Rev. D Chillingworth of Portadown
79. R Campbell of Londonderry
80. A Strange, Diamond LOL 1422 & Blackley's Volunteers
RBP 22 of Muckamore
81. A Boreland, Director of Administration, Ards Borough
Council
82. B Woods of Ballygowan
83. D Cooke
84. D Briggs, Director of Corporate Services, Lisburn
Borough Council
85. Rev E Sweeney, Diocesan Secretary, Archdiocese of
Armagh
86. J Barr of Belfast
87. J Barr, Secretary, Belfast Purple Star LOL 1189
88. Joint submission of individuals
89. P Duncanson of Lisburn
90. G Mitchell of Lisburn
91. M Reynolds of Belfast
92. B Rodgers, Chair, SDLP Parades Committee
93. Sr R Hannaway, Community Leader, Columbanus Community
of Reconciliation
94. W Welsh of Rathcoole
95. B Anderson
96. M McShee
97. D Nelson, Nelson-Singleton Solicitors, Dromore
98. M Dougan, Secretary, Rising Sons of Aughavilly LOL 619

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99. Dr and Mrs Smyth of Belfast
100. J McKibben of Annalong
101. S Hutchinson, Church and Government Committee,
Presbyterian Church in Ireland
102. C Davidson of Portglenone
103. J O'Neill of Bangor
104. J Robinson, Secretary, Brookhill LOL 770
105. J Somerville of Bangor
106. W McLoughlin of Hamiltonsbawn
107. R Gardiner, District Secretary, Markethill District
LOL 10
108. M Johnston of Comber
109. I Kelly of Coleraine
110. D Casson of Newtownards
111. C Davidson, Secretary, Milltown True Blues LOL 205
112. W White, Secretary, Ballyeaston LOL 420
113. I Henderson, Secretary, Cullion LOL 636
114. A Carr, Women Together for Peace
115. J J de C Fisher of Ashington
116. W Junkin, Senior Assistant Director, Department of
Public Prosecutions
117. P Evans of Leicestershire
118. S Chestnutt, Secretary, Skeffington LOL 493
119. J McMaster, Methodist Church in Ireland
120. D Bryan, University of Ulster
121. S Hamilton
122. I Henderson
123. G McCutcheon, Secretary, Greyabbey LOL 1592

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Annex B

Meetings at which the North Report was discussed

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Minister/Official</u>
10 February 1997	DUP	Sir John Wheeler
12 February 1997	Workers Party	Official
12 February 1997	Women's Coalition	Official
17 February 1997	Alliance Party	Sir John Wheeler
17 February 1997	Mediation Network	Official
18 February 1997	Dr Mari Fitzduff, Community Relations Council	Official
20 February 1997	Dr Mowlam	Sir Patrick Mayhew
26 February 1997	D Bryan and N Jarman, University of Ulster	Official
26 February 1997	Prof T Hadden and A Donnelly, Queens University	Official
28 February 1997	SDLP	Sir John Wheeler
05 March 1997	NIC/ICTU	Official
06 March 1997	PUP	Official
10 March 1997	Portadown District LOL	Sir Patrick Mayhew
12 March 1997	UDP	Official
12 March 1997	Monsignor Faul	Official
13 March 1997	Comber District LOL	Official
14 March 1997	Grand Orange Lodge	Sir Patrick Mayhew
18 March 1997	Methodist Parades Delegation	Official
20 March 1997	Democratic Left	Official
24 March 1997	Women's Coalition	Sir John Wheeler
26 March 1997	Church Leaders	Sir Patrick Mayhew
07 April 1997	UKUP	Sir John Wheeler