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From the Private Secretary

19 June 1998

PM L 124/98

ASST/ SEC 235/b
25 JUN 1998
C.C.R.U.

Dear Mrs Gracey,

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your fax of 21 May and for taking part in the phone-in.

While the Prime Minister is prepared in principle to meet with you, I regret that at this time a meeting is not possible. I hope you will understand that the pressures on his time at the moment are very great.

Nevertheless, I know that Northern Ireland Office officials would be happy to see you. If you should wish to take up the offer of such a meeting, it would be helpful if you could write to Mr Ingram's office outlining an agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Barton

PHILIP BARTON

PA - Outkey file M
26/6

Mrs Nancy Gracey

PS/sfs LRS
Mr Perry
Mr Macarone
Mr Carson V.S.C.
Miss Dullaghan

Mr Carson
Mr Carson
outcom! 26/6



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TO:

Tony Conaghan, CCRU

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FROM:

Angela Dullaghan

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TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: *(including this header page)*

COMMENTS

FROM: ANGELA DULLAGHAN
Security Policy & Operations Division
12 June 1998

DESK IMMEDIATE

1. Mr Clarke [TC 16/6] See Copy Distribution List Below
2. PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - O

MINISTER'S CASE PML 22/98 - OUTCRY

Summary

Issue: Request from Nancy Gracey and others from Outcry for a meeting with the Prime Minister and a suggestion from Sean O'Callaghan that the Prime Minister should also see FAIT, New Dialogue and Peace Train representatives.

Timescale: Your deadline is close today.

Recommendation: That you write to No 10, as per the attached draft, advising that the Prime Minister should not meet representatives of these groups.

Detail

OUTCRY

This is the second time that Nancy Gracey, founder of Outcry has requested a meeting with the Prime Minister. You wrote to Mrs Gracey in February on behalf of No 10 declining a meeting suggesting the organisation meet with officials.

Background

2. Mrs Gracey was one of the founding members, and former Chairperson of Families Against Intimidation and Terror (FAIT) which seeks to provide a service for people under threat of paramilitary violence and for their families and acts as a public voice in opposition to such incidents. The work of FAIT highlights incidents of abuse and the human rights dimension. There are few, if any, community interventions which are more dangerous or difficult.

3. In 1996 FAIT was involved in a controversy surrounding a trip to the United States involving Mrs Gracey, and two other representatives of the organisation, Mrs McCartan and Mrs Peacock, out of which came allegations regarding the misappropriation of grant funds. At the same time FAIT faced internal disagreements, all of which culminated in the resignation of Mrs Gracey. In addition both Mrs McCartan and Mrs Peacock left FAIT in sympathy.

4. As a result, Mrs Gracey along with her two friends, Mrs McCartan and Mrs Peacock, formed OUTCRY. The group apparently operates from Mrs Gracey's home in Downpatrick and would appear to have an identical role to FAIT. Central Community Relations Unit has had no contact with OUTCRY and has no other knowledge of their work apart from the occasional references in the local papers. CCRU have indicated they would not provide financial support to OUTCRY due to the ongoing and substantial funding of FAIT.

Sean O'Callaghan's suggestion

5. Sean O'Callaghan suggested that the Prime Minister should meet 3 other groups; FAIT, New Dialogue and Peace Train.

FAIT

6. Mr Ingram met representatives of FAIT most recently on 5 May on behalf of the Prime Minister. Mr Glyn Roberts is a frequent correspondent with the Prime Minister and Secretary of State requesting meetings.

New Dialogue

7. New Dialogue's Mission Statement is: 'working for permanent peace, democracy and good relations in these islands'. It's Presidents are main stream UK cross-party representatives; Harry Barnes MP, Peter Bottomley MP, Simon Hughes MP and Lord Hylton. They are a GB based organisation who do not appear to be associated with the other groups.

Peace Train

8. CCRU have confirmed that the Peace Train has not run since October 1995.

Conclusion

9. There are a number of groups working in the most difficult area of community interventions and along with the need to establish complementary roles there is a real danger that new groups will merely duplicate work already being carried out by established groups. Co-ordination by groups working in this area has not always been good and there have been allegations from some groups about having to pick up the mistakes of others. It would therefore certainly be inadvisable to see these groups together as Mr O'Callaghan suggests. We recommend that the Prime Minister politely declines these requests, suggesting that if they wish to meet

separately with NIO officials they should write to the Secretary of State's office enclosing an agenda.

(Signed)

Angela Dullaghan
Ext 27035

cc: Mr Perry
Mr Maccabe
Mr Canavan
Mr Myles