

Annex A

Ref 13

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4th September 1990

Rt Hon Peter Brooke MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Stormont Castle
Belfast

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing on behalf of the members of the Community Relations Council and the Cultural Traditions Sub-Committee to express concern at the impact of the policy regarding the withdrawal of grant-aid from voluntary bodies for alleged closeness to paramilitary influences.

The recent withdrawal of grant from Glór na nGael is the latest example of a practice which might seriously compromise the efforts of both the Council and the Government in the field of community relations. In particular, the Cultural Traditions Group has been making efforts to prevent the hijack of Irish cultural traditions by undesirable elements and we assume that to be the object of your own policy. We are concerned that in this case the withdrawal of grant from a group which seems to us to have been trying to shake off some undesirable fellow travellers will have the opposite effect.

We are anxious that the Council should not become involved in controversy, and that there should not be a public difference between the Council and the Government on this issue. We would very much welcome an early opportunity to meet you to discuss our mutual problems, and to see whether any resolution is possible.

Yours sincerely,

MAURICE HAYES ✓

JAMES HAWTHORNE