

REPORT TO BAIS OFFICERS

First, let me express my regrets for not being able to be present today. To have missed two consecutive meetings looks (*pace* Wilde) like carelessness but on this occasion the (family) reasons were both unforeseen and compelling – so my apologies.

Since the last meeting (of which I had a full report from the Treasurer) I have attended a meeting of the Director of the Liverpool Institute with Niall Gallagher in the capacity of Vice-Chair of the JEP Steering Group.

The meeting was cordial and took the form of the Director informing AIB of the progress in the work of the Institute and the JEP. The Bank made it quite clear at this meeting that there was no more money forthcoming for either the Institute or BAIS at the end of this present three year period of its support. The Bank (in the person of Niall Gallagher) did, however, say that they would be pleased to advise both the Institute and BAIS on the formulation and presentation of proposals to further patrons and I believe that this is an opportunity that should be taken up.

It is clear that the Bank is keen to see what has been done with its money. The Director of the Institute was able to present a list of publications with concrete examples, properly credited to the JEP where appropriate, for the Bank's consideration in this matter; we (BAIS) need a similar list and to make a similar presentation. Hence, I think we should make sure that a dossier is compiled of reports of dayschools, conferences, language sessions and lecture programmes that we have supported, together with press cuttings. And not only from the *Irish Post* – for the Bank also made it plain that it was keen to be seen as active in the whole of the British marketplace and not "just" interested in speaking to the Irish community in Britain.

The Survey is progressing. I have had more than 250 returns to date but I consider that a little disappointing and I will be circulating multiple copies of the questionnaire to people who have wide networks of contacts, such as Nesson, David Harkness, Robert Welch Paul Arthur and Patrick Buckland. I may also try some directed mail shots of my own (Staffordshire Polytechnic proving either willing or unguarded). I hope to have a completed draft of the Survey ready for the Conference and to finalise it by the middle of May.

On the matter of the Higher Education Brochure which I suggested as a project earlier in the year, I would be grateful if this could be considered an Hon. Sec. duty and for Jim McCauley to take this over.

Which brings me round to my final comments, really addressed to Jim McCauley. The chief responsibility of the Hon. Sec is the care of our administrative apparatus, the Executive Director's interests (salary, pension rights, training, etc.) and long term strategic thinking. The need for this was identified by the Officers "off-site" meeting in Oxford and remains a pressing concern.

Someone has to think through the consequences for the Association and the Executive Director of the cessation of AIB funding . New modes of operating may have to be found (we may have to learn to do without Séan's services if we cannot pay his salary) and the ambitions of us all and our clients may need to be refocussed.

If, within the next six months, it begins to look as if a replacement sponsor for AIB can not be found, then funds should be set aside to provide some transitional easement for Séan and/or additional training for whatever post-BAIS world he might envisage. This topic should be discussed by the Officers no later than February 1991, I suggest.

David Cairns
9/11/90