

AG 11

Report: Chairpeople

1. Fund-raising programme

Fund-raising has been our major priority since April 1988 and has involved an intense programme of lobbying, presentations and negotiations. Main events to date have been:

- a) the award of a DES grant of £30,000, to appoint an Executive Secretary and fund-raiser;
- b) the award of a DENI (Dept. of Education, Northern Ireland) grant of £15,000 for the same purposes;
- c) appointment of Executive Secretary (Sean Hutton);
- d) securing of free office accommodation for three years from Rowntree Trust;
- e) appointment of Fund-raisers (Craigmyle - Mark Jeffries);
- f) representation in Reform Club to Board of Ireland Fund;
- g) the award of an FCO grant of £4,000 to finance a visit by the chairpeople and Dr Patrick Buckland to the US, inter alia to see Dr Tony O'Reilly, Chairman of the Ireland Fund, in Pittsburgh;
- h) application to Ireland Fund;
- i) application to Allied Irish Bank;
- j) application to Irish Government for lottery money;
- k) House of Commons fund-raising dinners, sponsored by AIB, hosted by Marjorie Mowlam, MP with guests of honour Peter Archer MP and Lord Prior;
- l) securing of Sealink and Aer Lingus help with highly successful 1987 London lecture series.

2. American Committee for Irish Studies

We attended the twenty-fifth anniversary conference of the ACIS in Dublin in 1987, its 1988 conference in Minnesota (courtesy of the FCO) and a reception in its and our honour hosted by the Belfast Telegraph.

3. New Patrons

Dr Seamus Heaney, Mr Robert Kee, Ms Detta O Cathain and Sir David Orr have agreed to become our patrons.

4. PR

We continue to build on our close links with educationalists, officials, politicians and press in both islands.

5. Northern Ireland

Discussions are in train with HMI inspectors to plan sixth-form conferences on Irish history.

6. Institute of Linguists

A successful joint venture with the Institute of Linguists has produced curricula and examination papers in the Irish language.