

VOICES

4:10
(JG)GORDON GRANT - Recent Conversations1. Phone July 29th, 1992:

- Complaints of Bruce Blythe lobbying politicians to enforce Public Enquiry into treatment of residents at Clontarf, Bindaon etc. Expressed fear that such an enquiry would not help former child migrants, would put great pressure on some families, and could even cause family breakdown.
- Said that senior Trade Union leaders (some of them "old boys") were interested in this whole matters. (I don't know why).
- Said he preferred VOICES to "face into limbo." He wants things kept "low-key" and expressed "fear of the future" if there is further widespread publicity.
- Expressed concern initially that presence of a lawyer at this meeting somehow related to police. (I assured him I was not in contact with any police). He mentioned John Lane (author of "The Fairbridge Kid") had a son a policeman who said (to Gordon, I think): "The police are more influential than the mafia!" He expressed some fear of police and referred obliquely to a previous encounter.
- He wants to "get politicians out of it."
- He spoke of a possible "joint press-release statement" to put an end to speculation.
- Agreed to meeting of Gordon Grant and Bruce Blythe, Gerry Faulkner and Peter McGowan.

2. Phone July 30th, 1992:

- Confirmed meeting time and place; no further mention of names.
- Warned me about Sheilagh Pearce (former child migrant and now friend) as one who
 - has her own problems
 - has done "damage" to clery and religious
 - was once named 23 times by Senator Jean Jenkins in Parliamentary debate
 - canvassed with Tom Haddaway (English TV Script-writer) some Christian Brothers as sexual offenders
 - made a "nuisance call" to Bruce Blythe.
 (Note: I didn't argue with any of these accusations).
- Said that some Unions were angry at Clontarf Old Boys letter (Maurice Whitefield) being "read in some churches" last Sunday.
 - (Note: i) Letter may have been distributed; unlikely to have been read;
 - ii) My sense was that Gordon was objecting to another point of view being so publicized.

(I told him I believed such a group as Clontarf Old Boys Association had every right to have their say).

G.T. Faulkner
July 30th, 1992