

Consular Corps NI Luncheon with North South Ministerial Council

23 August 2012

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: The Consular Corps/Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) held a luncheon for its Members with Joint Secretariats of the North South Ministerial Council - Ms Mary Bunting (Northern Ireland) and Ms Margaret Stanley (Acting-Ireland), at the Ramada Plaza.



Front Row (R-L): Ms Mary Bunting – NSMC Secretariat, Northern Ireland, Lord Diljit Rana –CA-NI President and Ms Margaret Stanley – NSMC Secretariat (Ag.), Ireland with the Consular Corps for Northern Ireland Executive and Members

The luncheon was organised by Dr Christopher Stange – Secretariat of CA-NI and of the Consulate for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which is based in Comber. The focus was on discussions concerning business, trade, transport, energy, immigration, tourism, partnership and collaboration concerning both North and South and the countries having official foreign government representation in Northern Ireland.

The North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) is supported by a standing Joint Secretariat, staffed by members of the Northern Ireland and Irish Civil Service. The Secretariat is based in Armagh.

The NSMC was established under the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement (1998), to develop consultation, co-operation and action on an all-island and cross-border basis concerning matters of mutual interest and within the competence of the Administrations, both North and South. It is comprised of Ministers of the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government, working together to take forward co-operation between both parts of the island to mutual benefit. **ENDS**

NOTES FOR EDITOR:

- For more information on the Consular Association of Northern Ireland please visit: www.ca-ni.org
- Secretariat: Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent & the Grenadines to Northern Ireland
- President: Lord Diljit Rana – Hon. Consul for India to Northern Ireland
- Vice President: Mrs Regine McCullough – Hon. Consul for France to Northern Ireland
- Treasurer: Mr Donald Price – Hon. Consul for Denmark to Northern Ireland

- Consuls are appointed to further the interests of the country they represent by encouraging commercial, academic and cultural activities. They also endeavour to assist, and protect the interests of their nationals. All their work is done within the terms of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR), an International Agreement which was drafted and agreed by the International Law Commission, and signed by the respective Governments on 24th April 1963.

- Consul Generals, Consuls, and other Consular Officials in Northern Ireland, whether they are Career Consuls or Honorary (Hon.) Consuls, are all appointed by the Governments of the Sending States to the Receiving State in the United Kingdom via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Each official receives a Letter of Commission which is recognised by the Government of the United Kingdom as conferring Consular standing in accordance with the VCCR.

- The Consular Corps/Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) serves all Foreign Consular Officials (Career and Honorary) in Northern Ireland.

- The objectives of CA-NI are to bring its Members together in close and friendly co-operation, for the development and protection of their mutual interests, as well as, representing the Consular Association to Government Departments, other central/local authorities, and internationally within the framework of Consular activities.