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## UK Honours John Connorton Peace Advocate

*New York Consulate, 18 February 2004*

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has awarded Mr. John Connorton, the prominent New York lawyer, an honorary CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Announcing the award, Sir Thomas British Consul General said: **"I am delighted that Her Majesty the Queen has awarded John Connorton an honorary CBE, in recognition of his role in helping move forward the peace process in Northern Ireland. He has worked tirelessly to bring together politicians from different traditions to help promote understanding and peace. His deep and continuing personal interest has won him the admiration of people of every political background. John understands the importance of prosperity in underpinning peace. He has shown outstanding dedication in the promotion of business opportunities and investment in Northern Ireland. As Head of the New York chapter of the Friends of Belfast he continues to bring together the people to create the business contacts that lead to new jobs and prosperity."**

The Right Honourable Paul Murphy MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland said:

**"It is always a special pleasure to be able to honour someone who is a friend. I count you as a good friend of mine, John, a friend of both the British and Irish Governments and of all those trying to bring lasting peace to Northern Ireland. But, most importantly of all, you are a true friend to the people of Northern Ireland, whatever their background, and a friend to future generations who will enjoy the peace and prosperity that you have worked so hard to bring about"**.

### Notes:

#### **John Connorton**

*John Connorton, has worked for many years encouraging investment, innovation and enterprise in Northern Ireland as a way of supporting and bolstering the Peace Process. He has served as an Honorary Director of Nobel Laureate John Hume's North West International Ltd. (formerly Derry-Boston Ventures) which promoted economic development in Northern Ireland.*

*John Connorton, has for many years brought together politicians from different traditions in Northern Ireland and has provided public speaking platforms for them. He delivered the 6th Annual Dr. John Harbinson Lecture entitled "Perspectives on U.S. Involvement in the Peace Process and Inward Investment in Northern Ireland" at the Belfast Institute in May 2001 and was named a "Friend of Belfast" at that time.*

*The University of Ulster conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws on Connorton in a ceremony at Fordham Law School in July 2003 for his work for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.*

*He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Flax Trust located in Belfast. The charity is committed to the reconciliation of a divided community through economic and social development, bringing peace to communities, one person and one job at a time.*

#### **Order of the British Empire**

*British honours are awarded on merit, for exceptional achievement or service. These awards are conferred by the Queen on the advice of the Foreign Secretary, on those who have made an important contribution to relations between their country and Britain.*

*The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire was founded by His Majesty King George V in 1917. Its original purpose was to recognise exceptional public service by civilians in the First World War. Since then, it is the honour most widely conferred on civilians and military service personnel for public service or outstanding contribution to society. The Grand Master is His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh. Recent American recipients have included: Senator George Mitchell (GBE), Steven Spielberg (KBE), Rudolph W. Giuliani, former Mayor of New York (KBE), IBM Chief Executive, Lou Gerstner (KBE), the Reverend Billy Graham (KBE) and Mrs Loretta Brennan Glucksman (CBE).*

*The CBE is the third class of the Order of the British Empire. Although an honorary award, Mr. Connorton will be entitled to place the letters CBE after his name. British Ambassador to the US Sir David Manning, will present Mr Connorton with the insignia of the order on behalf of Her Majesty at an investiture ceremony at date to be agreed.*

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