

Dermot Nally Papers

UCDA P254/19

10 PRINCIPLES

P254/19

1. No selfish strategic or economic interest

'The British Government has no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland: our role is to help, enable and encourage.'

- SOSNI (Brooke) *The British Presence* speech at Whitbread Restaurant, 9 November 1990

2. Facilitator for the democratic will of the people of Northern Ireland

'With no self-interest leading it to pursue a separate agenda of its own, the Government is just as plainly the facilitator of the will of the people in Northern Ireland, democratically expressed, as terrorism is its enemy.'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992

3. Committed to the present status so long as majority of the people wish it

'We are committed, warmly, solemnly, steadfastly, to honouring our commitment to the wishes of a majority in Northern Ireland. And the Irish Government has endorsed this through its signature of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992

The two Governments

(a) affirm that any change in the status of Northern Ireland would only come about with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland;

(b) recognise that the present wish of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland is for no change in the status of Northern Ireland;

(c) declare that, if in the future a majority of the people of Northern Ireland clearly wish for and formally consent to the establishment of a united Ireland, they will introduce and support in the respective Parliaments legislation to give effect to that wish.

- *Anglo-Irish Agreement* 15 November 1985

4. Committed to equality of opportunity, equity of treatment, parity of esteem for all the people

'Equally there must be appropriate expression...of the identity of each of the two main parts of the community in Northern Ireland. The principles of equality of opportunity, equity of treatment and parity of esteem, already established by the Government, must be upheld and applied.'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992

The two Governments

- (a) affirm that any change in the status of Northern Ireland would only come about with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland;
 - (b) recognise that the present wish of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland is for no change in the status of Northern Ireland;
 - (c) declare that, if in the future a majority of the people of Northern Ireland clearly wish for and formally consent to the establishment of a united Ireland, they will introduce and support in the respective Parliaments legislation to give effect to that wish.
- *Anglo-Irish Agreement* 15 November 1985

10. **Consequences of a genuine end to violence**

'An Irish republicanism seen to have finally renounced violence would be able, like other parties, to seek a role in the peaceful political life of the community. In Northern Ireland it is not the aspiration to a sovereign, united Ireland, against which we set our face, but its violent expression.'

- SOSNI (Brooke) *The British Presence* speech at Whitbread Restaurant, 9 November 1990

'The provisional movement has so far excluded itself from discussions, by its devotion to the very methods it has followed. If its cause does have a serious political purpose, then let it renounce unequivocally the use and threat of violence, and demonstrate over a sufficient period that its renunciation is for real...
... the Government is pledged to return as much responsibility as possible into the hands of local politicians, within a wider framework of stable relationships which, with all concerned, we must work out. It would be designed to ensure that no legitimate grouping is excluded from a fair opportunity to share in the exercise of this responsibility.'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992

['In the event of a genuine and established cessation of violence, the whole range of responses that we have had to make to that violence could, and would, inevitably be looked at afresh...
Thus, when terrorism is seen to have genuinely ended, there will indeed be profound consequences for the maintenance of law and order, and for the administration of justice. Freed from the threat of death at every corner, the RUC would be free to give fresh priority to the quality and accessibility of its service... the army could return to its garrison role, ... emergency legislation ... would have served its purpose.'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992]

5. **No inhibition on legitimate expression of any opinion**

'It falls to the British Government ... to ensure that ... it operates an administration which recognises the special nature of society here, which places no impediment in the way of the legitimate expression of both identities in Northern Ireland...'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992

6. **Acknowledge the aspiration by some to a united Ireland**

'... we acknowledge that there is another view - strongly held by the nationalist minority within Northern Ireland. That is the aspiration to a united Ireland - not simply the Republic of Ireland which exists today, but to a 32 county state covering all the territory of the island, and worthy in their view of the support of all Irish people.'

- SOSNI (Brooke) *The British Presence* speech at Whitbread Restaurant, 9 November 1990

'...there is also the aspiration to a united Ireland, an aspiration that is no less legitimate [than unionism]. Irish nationalism in its normal constitutional form has produced many fine patriots and advocates, who have enriched Ireland and other countries too.'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992

7. **No objective advocated peacefully excluded from talks process**

'Provided it is advocated constitutionally, there can be no proper reason for excluding any political objective from discussion. Certainly not the objective of an Ireland united through broad agreement fairly and freely achieved.'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992

8. **No predetermined outcome to the process, no blueprint**

'Let me make it entirely clear that within this process the British Government is not guided by any blueprint or master plan, leading to some pre-selected constitutional outcome of our choice. We have none.'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992

9. **If majority wished united Ireland would present no obstacles, would legislate to give effect**

'...Her Majesty's Government would never try to impede any body of opinion in working to achieve a place for Northern Ireland within a united Ireland, provided they work only by democratic and peaceful means. If by such means they were to persuade the greater number of those living in Northern Ireland to agree with them, then Her Majesty's Government would present no obstacle. All this is indeed well known, and already constitutes a binding obligation upon us.'

- SOSNI (Mayhew) *Culture and Identity* speech at Coleraine, 16 December 1992