

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

MAIN ISSUES OF CONCERN

7.4.98

Main issues of concern for Sinn Fein are as follows:

**1. Constitutional**

- a. No British declaration that new legislation renders inoperable or supersedes the Act of Union or other constitutional legislation other than the Government of Ireland Act.
- b. Proposed changes to Irish constitution problematic.
- c. No Irish government provision for northern representation in Irish political institutions.

**2. Institutions**

- a. Strand 1 - We want to see Cabinet style administration. This is in dispute.  
Sufficient consensus essential for nationalists. This is in dispute.  
No Department of Equality
- b. North/South - Functions and Implementation Bodies extremely limited and inadequate.
- c. East/West - British/Irish Council unnecessary. The oversight role of the two governments very vague.

**3. Rights, Safeguard, Equality, Justice.**

- a. Human Rights - No all-Ireland Human Rights Commission/Court
- b. Policing - no commitment to a new police service
- c. Justice - no mechanism for transformation of criminal justice system.
- d. Irish language - equality for Irish language
- e. Symbols - asks only for 'sensitivity'. commitment needed for Irish as well as British symbols or none at all - no mechanism to deal with this.



#### 4. Other Issues

- a. Prisoners - inadequate, as already outlined.
- b. No mention of RIR, disbandment of part-time element and withdrawal of full-time element.
- c. Decommissioning - Suggestion of procedural blockage related to decommissioning (not in paper but being pushed by Unionists)
- d. No review of licensed weapons.