

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY

POLITICAL STRUCTURES

IN

NORTHERN IRELAND

FORUM FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

DUBLIN CASTLE

9 JUNE, 1995

5. The central principle of the SDLP with regard to any political structures for Northern Ireland has been that of Partnership between the two major traditions. This has been a guiding principle of the SDLP since the Party's foundation.
6. One of our main tasks at present is to affirm the key principles of future structures, building upon the principles as set out in the Joint Declaration and the Framework Document.
7. The SDLP's position is based on the following principles which we regard as fundamental.

THE PRINCIPLES:

1. New political structures should be such as to enable both political traditions to identify with them.
2. The structures respect the diversity of political identity and ensure parity of esteem for both political traditions.
3. The structures are stable and enduring.
4. The structures are workable and practical and capable of servicing the whole community.
5. The structures are self sustaining and enriching.
- * 6. The structures are innovative and dynamic and capable of development.
7. The structures are democratic and representative.

12. The SDLP welcomed the 'Possible Arrangements: Outline' as a basis upon which agreed political structures for Northern Ireland could be built through a process of dialogue, debate and negotiations.
13. SDLP does not view Part I of the "Frameworks for the Future" document or its proposals, as isolated, nor separate from Part II, 'A New Framework for Agreement'. Both Parts of the "Frameworks for the Future" document have an organic unity and in our view are a serious and genuine attempt to address the complex and interdependent relations that exist on this island.
14. We therefore welcome the British Government's reiteration of the Joint Declaration at Part I, Annex A, Page 13, that it is "..... working with the Irish Government to achieve such an agreement, which will embrace the totality of relationships."

And that:

"Any political agreement must address all the relevant relationships, not only between the two main parts of the Community within Northern Ireland, including the relationship between any new political institutions there and the Westminster Parliament, but also those between Northern Ireland and the Republic and between the United Kingdom and Irish Governments."