

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

Immediate

1315hrs, 20 October 1997

The Ulster Unionist Party has withdrawn from the Strand 2 Talks to reflect on the conflicting positions of the UK and Irish Governments on Articles 2 & 3 of the 1937 Constitution.

The UUP emphasised that these Articles are the obstacle to co-operation on the island of Ireland. Minister Murphy agreed with the Prime Minister's statement at Balmoral that constitutional change in the Irish Republic would be helpful in advance of a settlement.

However, the Irish Minister, Mr Andrews, stated that he differed with the UK position and that Dublin would not consider any changes to 2 & 3 until after an agreed settlement.

The UUP considers this to be an atrocious state of affairs.

ENDS