

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

STRANDS 2 & 3
AGENDA ITEM 3
24. 10. 1997.

There are two separate states within the British Isles, namely the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland. Any relationships established should reflect this reality and be able to address the totality of relationships within these islands.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement and the institutions which flow from it, are undemocratic, unaccountable and unacceptable to the people of Northern Ireland, and should be replaced by new relationships and arrangements. We therefore propose a Council of the British Isles, which would enable discussion and co-operation between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and the Regions of the respective States.

Such new relationships are of course predicated on the acceptance and recognition, in law and in practice, of the territorial integrity of the United Kingdom.

It is futile to discuss the details of such arrangements unless there is an unequivocal acceptance of the realities of the situation. Co-operation pre-supposes a degree of integrity as to each participants attitude towards the relationships established.

A pre-requisite for any new relationship is for trust to be established between the participants and this can only be built up progressively.