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BBC RADIO ULSTER

INTERVIEW WITH IAN PAISLEY - 16.5.97

INTERVIEWER

Are you reassured?

IAN PAISLEY

No I am not reassured at all because he emphasised that the framework document was on his opinion the basis for going forward and the framework document has only one way forward and that is the destruction of the union. He can't have it both ways, if he had repudiated the framework document and said we can't work on a document that is only one way forward and that is towards a United Ireland that would have been the assurance that we were all looking for. But instead of that he said that it was the framework document to be the basis of these talks - well I will not talk on the basis of a document that wants to destroy us..... the second thing we must be very strong on is we have heard this all before from the previous Government the old pan. That officials will meet and the officials will seek to understand their mind. We all know what the mind of the IRA is, made by Mr McGuinness, he said we have nothing to give. It is the British Government and the Unionists must give.

INTERVIEWER

Dr Paisley Mr Blair said he was prepared to make one further effort and his message to Sinn Fein was clear the settlement train is leaving I want you on it but it won't wait for you so he is not saying that this is going to be a long drawn out process.

IAN PAISLEY

What sort of train is it?

INTERVIEWER

He calls it the settlement train.

IAN PAISLEY

It is a train having its chart in the framework document then it is a Dublin train and I wouldn't be travelling in that train for that is not the road to peace. And I notice also that he didn't demand that they give up their illegal claim. He said it would be good if they would do something to change, but he didn't say it has to go and you know he has on board that train those who have a constitutional imperative by their own supreme court to bring about a united Ireland. So it certainly a motley sort of train that he imagines as a peace train.

INTERVIEWER

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OK he does say that unionists have nothing to fear, that there is no slippery slope. He is committed to the union which he says he values because it binds together the four parts of the UK, but it must accommodate diversity, but unionists should not draw up their wagons into a circle. He seems to think he can do both.

IAN PAISLEY

Well, all I can say to him that he should read the framework document and see how much we have to fear from that and then he says that is going to be the basis of the future negotiations....

INTERVIEWER

He wants to create institutions which will reflect the aspirations of both traditions, that is what he sees as the framework document doing.

IAN PAISLEY

The framework document doesn't do that. The people of Northern Ireland rejected the framework document. Every unionist in the country including the Official Unionists reject the framework document as a basis and he says yet that is the basis that we have to go forward on. I mean Mr Blair has got to come out honestly, the concessions made today in his speech were to the republicans. There was nothing in that speech that we haven't heard before as regards to giving confidence to unionists because he said the framework document and he said although the IRA have done all these things I am going to get my officials to talk to them, we know what happened the last time the officials talked. We had the so called ceasefire and the maim and the killing that went on and continued and we know the state of play today.