

for John Holmes

cc: JP  
Ac

Outline  
19 November 1997

### Internal matters

Agreement should be assumed for -  
a Northern Assembly to administer the six Northern Ireland Departments;  
the Assembly to be elected by a system of proportional representation;  
for it to discharge its functions through committees formed in proportion to party strengths in the Assembly;  
for Committee chairs etc to be allocated proportionally to parties by the d'Hondt formula.

to be decided -  
whether there should be any legislative function for the Assembly;  
whether the Assembly should have a role on NIO matters, eg Policing;  
the finances of an Assembly;  
the size of an Assembly;  
the particular PR electoral system;  
whether there should be any safeguards in addition to the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

### The wider context

It should be agreement for change in the Irish constitution's territorial claim on the UK -

but there is not yet agreement on the substance of such change;  
it is anticipated that the Irish government will demand some unspecified change in the British constitution.

There should be agreement for more co-operation with the Republic of Ireland

to be decided  
whether there should be a framework for such co-operation;  
whether such framework should operate on an all-Ireland basis or include the wider context;  
the institutional arrangements, if any, for such co-operation;  
the sources of authority for such co-operation and its transparency and accountability.

① cc by fax to  
New Lindsay, NIO  
② Back quickly for  
20/11