

for John Holmes

cc: SP
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

has Lindsay, NIO

② Back quickly for

20/11