

## PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR TRIMBLE - 18 NOVEMBER 1997

KEY POINTS TO MAKE

We now have the bones of a settlement formed around a few key areas: structures within Northern Ireland; North/South structures; East/West structures and arrangements which cater for the totality of relationships between the various peoples of these islands, including relations between the two sovereign Governments; agreed provisions to address the equality, rights and justice agendas; and a shared understanding on constitutional issues.

We see a deal revolving around these points: each seems a minimum requirement for one side or other.

Last time we met you stressed the particular importance of North-South structures being aligned with East-West arrangements. [Introduce the attached paper as a possible constructive way forward.] This envisages that:

- the Irish Government would be prepared to accept a developed East-West relationship providing the UUP were prepared to accept significant North-South structures.
- North-South structures would be set in the context of the totality of relationships within these Islands, and East/West structures to address these;
- there would be a common framework of principles for all co-operation between executive authorities in UK and Irish Republic.

This is a working paper. The Irish are not signed-up to it but I believe they might be brought to positive view if convinced you accept significance of North/South structures.

Conclude by inviting and welcoming Mr Trimble's comments.