

CONFIDENTIAL

When we should have the choice of the alternatives.
FAXED
for 3/12.

NORTHERN IRELAND: HEADS OF AGREEMENT

- A constitutional understanding, based on commitment to principle of consent by both British and Irish Governments, and including changes to Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution (the territorial claim).
- A Northern Ireland Assembly, elected by a system of proportional representation. Devolution of executive and legislative responsibility over at least the responsibilities of the six Northern Ireland Departments.
- A Council of these islands including the British and Irish Governments, the Northern Ireland administration, and representatives of devolved institutions in the rest of the UK. This would provide an overall context for the totality of relationships.
- A Council of Ministers for North/South Co-operation, to bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government, while each side remains accountable to, and acting within the mandate of, the relevant democratic institutions, North and South. All decisions to be by agreement between the two sides, North and South.
- Standing Intergovernmental machinery between the Irish and British governments covering issues of mutual interest, including but not limited to Northern Ireland.

[OR INSTEAD OF LAST THREE TIRETS ABOVE

Replacement of the Anglo-Irish Agreement with a new British-Irish Agreement to establish closer cooperation and enhanced relationships, embracing:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

- A Council of these islands, to deal with the totality of relationships, including the British and Irish Governments, the Northern Ireland administration, and representatives of devolved institutions in the rest of the UK;
- A Council of Ministers for North/South cooperation, to bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government. Each side to remain accountable to, and act within the mandate of the NI Assembly and the Irish Parliament, respectively. All decisions to be by agreement between the two sides, North and South;
- Standing intergovernmental machinery (between the Irish and British governments) covering issues of mutual interest, including but not limited to Northern Ireland.]
- Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland and address equality and justice issues.

f\agreement mfj

CONFIDENTIAL