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Quenhi-Thomson
9/1**NORTHERN IRELAND: DRAFT HEADS OF AGREEMENT**

Balanced constitutional change, based on commitment to the principle of consent by both British and Irish Governments, to include both changes to Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution and a new British Constitutional Act to replace existing legislation including Section 75 of the Government of Ireland Act 1920.

Democratically elected institutions in Northern Ireland, to involve a Northern Ireland Assembly, elected by a system of proportional representation, exercising devolved executive and legislative responsibility over at least the responsibilities of the six Northern Ireland Departments, and with provisions to ensure that these institutions operate on the basis of cross-community agreement, to protect the interests of both communities.

A new British-Irish Agreement to replace the existing Anglo-Irish Agreement and help establish close co-operation and enhance relationships, embracing:

- An intergovernmental Council to deal with the totality of relationships, with meetings twice a year at Summit level, to include representatives of the British and Irish Governments, the Northern Ireland Administration and the devolved institutions in Scotland and Wales.
- North-South Ministerial Councils to bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government in particular areas, to co-operate and consult on matters of mutual benefit. Each side will remain accountable to, and act within the mandate of, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Oireachtas respectively. All decisions will be by agreement between the two sides, North and South. These Councils may, as they see fit, establish executive agencies to implement policies on a North-South basis.

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NO. 364

003

- 2 -

- Standing intergovernmental machinery between the Irish and British Governments covering issues of mutual interest, including non-devolved issues for Northern Ireland, when representatives of the Northern Ireland Administration would be involved.
- Provisions to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland and address equality and justice issues, through arrangements for the comprehensive protection of fundamental human, civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, perhaps including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland; and full respect for the principles of equality of treatment and freedom from discrimination, and the cultural identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the South to be taken.
- Separate measures to establish and consolidate a normal peaceful society, dealing with issues such as prisoners, security in all its aspects, and decommissioning of weapons.