

0044171 7224079

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CONFIDENTIAL**PROPOSITIONS ON 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 include 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. Each side will act within the mandate of and remain accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Oireachtas respectively. All decisions will be by agreement between the two sides, North and South.
- the establishment of a number of executive agencies to implement policies agreed by both sides in the Councils at an all-island level.
- 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

Provision 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, including a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland, supplementing the provisions of the European Convention, 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 Republic of Ireland.

Effective and practical measures to establish and consolidate a normal peaceful society, dealing with

- a programme of action in regard to prisoners
- a commitment on the part of the British Government to reduce troop levels and to dismantle special security installations
- reform in the policing area
- a commitment to the decommissioning of illegally-held arms within a fixed time frame following the reaching of agreement,
- and, an examination of the pattern and extent of legally held weapons.