

Heads of Agreement

A

PROPOSITIONS ON HEADS OF AGREEMENT

Balanced constitutional change, based on commitment to the principle of consent in all its aspects 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.] [appropriate changes to British legislation.]

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 all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully and that all sections of the community are protected.

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

- An intergovernmental Council [of these islands] to deal with the totality of relationships, to include representatives of the British and Irish Governments, the Northern Ireland Administration and the devolved institutions in Scotland and Wales, with meetings twice a year at Summit level.

- A North-South Ministerial Council [for cooperation] 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

- 2 -

Oireachtas respectively. All decisions will be by agreement between the two sides, North and South. [Agreed policies to be implemented on a cross-border or North-South basis, including through the establishment of appropriate agencies.]

[- 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 Administration would be involved.

Provision to safeguard the rights of both communities in Northern Ireland, 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 to achieve full respect for the principles of equity 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 issues such as prisoners, security in all its aspects, [reform of policing] and decommissioning of weapons