

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.] [Both changes to the Irish constitution and a new British constitutional act.]

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 [in the operation of these institutions] 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 relations between Britain and Ireland] 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 consult, cooperate and act on matters of mutual interest within the mandate of, and accountable to, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the 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 [bodies] 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 an acceptable peaceful society, dealing with issues such as prisoners, security in all its aspects, policing and decommissioning of weapons.

Dear Ken

PRIME MINISTER'S CONVERSATION WITH GERRY ADAMS

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Gerry Adams called the Prime Minister in Tokyo at 2.25 pm today (UK time).

The Prime Minister said that he was very sorry indeed that the husband of Gerry Adams' niece had been killed. He sent his condolences. He would like the conversation between them to remain private. Gerry Adams interjected that he would observe this but Ted Kennedy already knew about the call.

The Prime Minister said he was trying to move the process on so that negotiations could begin on the substance. He was in touch with the Irish Government. As soon as he had something more definitive to say he would let Adams know.

Adams said the paper described in the Daily Telegraph sounded like a step back from the Framework Document. It would be seen as a triumph for the UUP and the Loyalists. It would appear as if the Government were pandering to them. This came on top of the prisoners who should have been transferred back to Ireland being returned to their prisons in the UK; the Casement 5 being called back; the RUC refusing to reveal forensics on the recent killings of Catholics because they would show they were done by the UVF/UDA. As reported, the document appeared to relegate North/South arrangements to merely departmental issues. It looked as if Tróiche was getting everything he wanted - a Council of these Isles and watered-down North/South arrangements. The Framework Document should be the starting point.