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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 the Irish Constitution and to British constitutional 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 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 co-operation and enhance relationships, embracing:

- An intergovernmental Council 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 to bring together those with executive responsibilities in Northern Ireland and the Irish Government in particular areas. Each side will consult, co-operate and take decisions 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.
- Suitable implementation bodies and mechanisms for policies agreed by the North/South Council in meaningful areas and 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

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identity and ethos of both communities. Appropriate steps to ensure an equivalent level of protection in the Republic.

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.

Jeff Paine

I am writing, during Dr Paisley's absence in Africa, on behalf of my party, to express our deep concern about the abandonment of principle and policy by your government in relation to the Talks Process. The underlying and publicly stated principle applying to the Talks was that only those "exclusively committed to peace and democracy" were to be admitted and if that commitment was ruptured then the offending group was to be excluded from the negotiations.

To remove doubt about what constituted a commitment to peace and democracy clear regulations were issued that the six Mitchell Principles were the yardstick against which a group's behaviour would be judged for inclusion or exclusion. It is now that when two of the loyalist groups announced an intention to murder some of their former colleagues my party sought to be excluded with under the appropriate procedure within the Talks. The Conservative government refused to take any action in response to the public nature of the death threat and the transparent character of the violation. Their failure to act on so patent an infringement of