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SECRET & PERSONAL

(25 March 1998)

Annex C

DRAFT CLAUSES/SCHEDULES

1-(1) it is hereby declared that Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom and shall not cease to be so, in whole or in part, without the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland voting in a poll held for the purposes of this section in accordance with Schedule 1.

(2) But if the wish expressed by a majority in such a poll is that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland, the Secretary of State shall lay before Parliament such proposals to give effect to that wish as may be agreed between Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of the Republic of Ireland.

SCHEDULE 1

POLLS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 1

1. The Secretary of State may by order direct the holding of a poll for the purposes of section 1 on a date specified in the order.

[2. An order under paragraph 1 shall not specify a date less than five years after the date of a previous poll under this Schedule.]

3. The Secretary of State shall exercise the power under paragraph 1 if at any time it appears likely to him that a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland.

4. [Remaining paragraphs along the lines of paragraphs 2 and 3 of existing Schedule 1 to 1973 Act.]

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