

7.9 A federal/confederal arrangement would allow all those living on the island to share and give expression to the common aspects of their identity while at the same time maintaining and protecting their separate beliefs and way of life. The central authority would promote their common interests while the state authorities protected individual interests.

CHAPTER 8

JOINT AUTHORITY

8.1 Under joint authority, the London and Dublin governments would have equal responsibility for all aspects of the government of Northern Ireland. This arrangement would accord equal validity to the two traditions in Northern Ireland and would reflect the current reality that the people of the North are divided in their allegiances. The two governments, building on existing links and in consultation with nationalist and unionist opinion, would establish joint authority designed to ensure a stable and secure system of government.

8.2 Joint authority would give political, symbolic and administrative expression of their identity to Northern nationalists without infringing the parallel wish of unionists to maintain and to have full operational expression of their identity. It would be an unprecedented approach to the unique realities that have evolved within Ireland and between Britain and Ireland.

8.3 Joint authority would involve shared rule by the British and Irish Governments. Although this could be exercised directly, there would be enabling provision for the exercise of major powers by a locally-elected Assembly and Executive.

8.4 There would be full and formal recognition and symbolic expression of British and of Irish identity in Northern Ireland and promotion of the cultural expression of the two identities. Joint citizenship rights would be conferred automatically on all persons living in Northern Ireland, resulting in no diminution of the existing rights of Irish or British citizenship of persons living in Northern Ireland.

8.5 A comprehensive and enforceable non-denominational Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland would be promulgated ensuring the protection of both individual and communal rights and freedoms.

Northern Ireland would be resolved between the two Governments.

8.7 Under joint authority the two traditions in Northern Ireland would find themselves on a basis of equality and both would be able to find an expression of their identity in the new institutions. There would be no diminution of the Britishness of the unionist population. Their identity, ethos and link with Britain would be assured by the authority and presence of the British Government in the joint authority arrangements. At the same time it would resolve one basic defect of (a) the failed 1920-25 attempt to settle the Irish Question and (b) the present arrangements for the government of Northern Ireland — the failure to give satisfactory political, symbolic and administrative expression to Northern nationalists. Structures would thus be provided with which the nationalists in the North could identify, which might reverse their progressive alienation from existing structures. Security arrangements in which for the first time both nationalists and unionists could have confidence could be developed, thus providing a basis for peace and order. The climate would thus be created for the emergence of normal political life, of compromise and of mutual confidence based on security in the reciprocal acceptance of identity and interests.

APPENDIX I

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Proceedings of Public Sessions at which Oral Presentations were made.

<i>Volume Number</i>	<i>Presenters</i>
No. 2	Sir Charles Carter; Prof. Loudon Ryan (21 September, 1983).
No. 3	Mr. Seán McBride; Rev. Fr. Brian Lennon SJ; Prof. David Harkness; Mr. Hugh Munro (4 October, 1983).
No. 4	Mr. Robin Glendinning; Sen. John Robb; Mr. Michael McKeown (5 October, 1983).
No. 5	Sir John Biggs-Davison MP; Northern Ireland Cross-Community Professional Group; Mr. Desmond Fennell (6 October, 1983).
No. 6	Dr. Roy Johnston; An tUasal Labhrás Ó Murchú, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann; Mr. Frank Curran; Col. Eoghan Ó Neill; An tUasal Micheál Ó Loingsigh, Irish Sovereignty Movement (11 October, 1983).
No. 7	Rev. Sydney Callaghan (20 October, 1983).
No. 8	Rev. Dr. W. T. McDowell, Synod of Dublin, Presbyterian Church in Ireland; Mr. Michael O'Flanagan and Mr. Michael O'Mahony, Federalism and Peace Movement (3 November, 1983).
No. 9	Women's Law and Research Group; Very Rev. Dr.