

Briefing & Discussion Notes of the NIWC's Position constitutional Position in relation to the 3 Strands

HEADING??? ASK ANN.

- Strand 1. Relationships within Northern Ireland
- " 2. Relationships between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland
- " 3. Relationships between Dublin & London

STRAND 1

RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND

Agenda Items:

1. Principles and Requirements.
2. Constitutional Issues.
3. Nature, Form and Extent of New Arrangements.
4. Relationships with Other Strands.
5. Justice Issues.
6. Rights & Safeguards.

STRAND 1 Relationships in Northern Ireland

- Agenda Item 2: Constitutional Issues
- Promotion of Co-Operation and Interdependence on Island of Ireland
 - Citizenship: Northern Ireland Born- Expectorate to have British/
Irish and Joint.
 - Right to Irish Passport
 - More Involvement with Seanad Eireann.
 - In place of territorial claim, Republic to move actively to
include Northern Ireland born (who choose) in their
citizenship. *to become more trusted
have ways of expressing their Irish identity*
 - Identity: Recognise right to identify as Irish or British; Ulster
and British. Ulster & Irish; Irish & British; (Brit/Irish,
Irish British)
 - 'Purist' thinking not viable.

STRAND 1 Relationships in Northern Ireland.

- Agenda Item 3: Nature, Form and Extent of New Arrangements.

Diagram here
page 4 on flip chart

here See

STRAND 2 Framework Document. 1995 ?

Para. 13 & Paras. 24-38

North / South Institutions.

Political, Social and Economic Interconnections

North/South Body- functionally related bodies- Heads of Departments

EU issues

Dail and Westminster designate functions (discuss Northern Ireland)

Roles; Consultative

Harmonising

Executive

Parliamentary Forum; Dail/Northern Ireland.

“DYNAMIC” ?

STRAND 2. Agenda

International Chair & British/Irish Governments. ?

1. Principles and Requirements
2. Constitutional Issues.
3. Nature Form and Extent of New Arrangements.
5. Rights and Safeguards

KEY ISSUES

Arts 2 & 3

Territorial Integrity

All Ireland Executive Powers

Dynamic Potential.

NIWC KEY POINTS RAISED

Part of a web of relationships.

Economic and social synergy.

EU Aspect

Institutions with appropriate powers.

Citizenship/identity.

Role for multi-sectored alliances/fora.

? Articles 2 & 3. (people rather than land).

Parity of aspirations.

Human Rights. Changes North/South.

Assembly involvement in GB bodies.

January 1998 Document- British/ Irish Government.

N/S Ministerial Council agreement (accountable to Dail and Assembly).
Implementation, bodies and mechanisms.
Human Rights- North/South

SUFFICIENT CONSENSUS

Parties which together add to a majority of the electorate.
Parties which between them represent a majority of both Unionists and Nationalists.
A majority of the participating political parties

PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS

Process.

Agreement- forged by consent-widest possible not simple majority.
Win consent through sufficient consensus not two trading blocks.
Collective responsibility for outcome.
Honesty about compromise.
Shared project to put to people.
Collective leadership on a common platform, not adversarial.
Transform and radicalize democracy
Inclusive of people in advance of referendum
Address fear of change > leadership in management of change.

Agreement

Inclusion, equity and human rights.
Capable of winning allegiance of all.
Demonstrate pluralism and tolerance.
Freedom and responsibility with protection and guarantees.
Participatory democracy
Equal outcome for women with men.
Openness, flexibility, development, innovate, and not replicate.
Acknowledge hurt and trauma, social and economic rights.
Monitoring and review systems to ensure real and measurable change.

Processing Agreements.

Transition period.
Set in place a process to ensure-
management of immediate change.
management of further development of change.

Agreement

- Weave web of relationships in these islands.
- Economic and social synergy of this island.
- Deliver real and measurable benefits.
- Deepen co-operation and mutual understanding.

Institutions and arrangements.

- Interfacing with UK regions, ROI, EU (and people)
- British and Irish Governments.
- New, unique constitutional arrangements.
- NI as special EU region, selecting UK or ROI terms which best suit.
- North/south must have functions and powers for effective and efficient operation.
- Structure for engaging civil society's expertise.
- Strategic economic planning across ?
- Decision-making structures closer to people.
- Provision to ensure gender equality including new electoral arrangement and support.
- Common principles-civil,religious, human rights- north/south.
- Relationships with other societies in conflict.

Principles and Requirements.

- Process.
- Agreement.
- Institutions and arrangements.
- Processing/implementing the agreement.