

STRAND II: PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS

Note-by the British Government

- ◆ there is a need for a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland, within the island or Ireland and between the peoples of these islands
- ◆ there is a need for an agreement across all the relationships, which would enable people to work constructively for their mutual benefit, without compromising the essential principles or long term aspirations or interests of either tradition or of either community
- ◆ agreement on relationships within the island of Ireland, as with the other relevant relationships, should secure sufficient consensus among the participants and be acceptable to the people North and South, respectively. It should:
 - be based on the principles of consent and self-determination as expressed in the Joint Declaration
 - reflect the principle that the consent of the governed is an essential ingredient for stability
 - be pursued and established by exclusively democratic, peaceful means, without resort to violence or coercion
 - be based on full respect for, and protection and expression of, the rights and identities of both traditions in Ireland and even handedly afford both communities in Northern Ireland parity of esteem and treatment, including equality of opportunity and advantage.
- ◆ an agreement should reflect a balanced accommodation of the differing views of the two main traditions on the constitutional issues in relation to the special position of Northern Ireland, enabling this to be incorporated in changes to constitutional legislation in both jurisdictions
- ◆ new institutions and structures should take account of the totality of relationships and enable the people of the island of Ireland to work together in all areas of common interest while fully respecting their diversity
- ◆ new institutions and arrangements should afford both communities secure and satisfactory political, administrative and symbolic expression and protection

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- conducive to ending terrorism, maintaining and advancing effective security co-operation, promoting justice and achieving lasting peace and stability.
- ◆ new institutions should be created to cater adequately for present and future political, social and economic interconnections on the island or Ireland, enabling representatives of the main traditions, North and South, to enter agreed dynamic, new, co-operative and constructive relationships on the following basis:
 - powers, functions, responsibilities and methods of operation should be agreed by the participants
 - they should operate only on the basis of agreement between representatives from North and South respectively
 - their terms of reference, once agreed by participants, should be mandated in legislation in the sovereign Parliaments
 - change to the remit should be possible, but only by agreement
 - they should operate within the principles of democratic authority and accountability operating in each jurisdiction.

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