



Northern Ireland Office
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Dr John Alderdice
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17 April 1995

Dear John:

As you will know, in my speech at the CBI Dinner last night I very strongly welcomed the developments of yesterday, which saw both the UUP and the UDUP engaging in separate dialogue with the SDLP about important matters affecting the Northern Ireland community. I was particularly pleased that merit was seen in talking to the Government about these issues as well. Agreement will clearly have to be found on economic, social and political matters if there is to be a settlement to which all sections of the community would subscribe.

I should therefore like to invite you, accompanied by others from your party as you may wish, to meet me soon to carry forward consideration of the issues that will have to be addressed if we are to succeed in the ambitious task of securing an agreed, comprehensive settlement. The best way to conduct the discussions, it seems to me, would be for us to examine the essential elements on which agreement will need to be found if there is to be an accommodation which satisfactorily encompasses all the relevant relationships. Naturally, for our part the Government would approach these issues from the point of view of the ideas in the Framework documents; at the same time I recognise that your own party will have its own ideas on how different elements might be formulated. All ideas, from whichever quarter and in whatever document, will be welcome. No points of view can or should be excluded from discussion.

I look forward to hearing from you. I am writing in similar terms to Ian Paisley, James Molyneaux and John Hume.

John Hume
John Hume

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