

*Ms Henry (12)
Framework Doc*

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FM DUBLIN
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AND TO DESKBY 1400Z NIO(L)
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AND TO IMMEDIATE BIS NEW YORK, WASHINGTON

MIPT: NORTHERN IRELAND: LEAK OF IRISH PAPER

SUMMARY

1. Irish text calls on British Government to 'acknowledge the full legitimacy and value of the goal of Irish unity by agreement' and to make practical provisions to give that objective meaningful operational expression.'

DETAIL

2. The Irish paper includes the Tanaiste's six principles, with the fourth redrafted to read 'majority' instead of 'Unionists': it is therefore an up to date draft.

3. Under the sub heading 'principles for a new approach' the document states that 'both governments will aim for a shared understanding of the constitutional issues so as to achieve a balanced accommodation of the differing positions of the two main traditions'. It states that a shared understanding shall involve the 'fullest possible degree of endorsement by each Government of the constitutional position of the other. Such reciprocal endorsement would not be possible for an Irish constitutional position which failed to reflect without reservation the commitment subscribed to in Article 1 of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Neither would it be possible in respect of a British position which failed to acknowledge the full legitimacy and value of the goal of Irish unity by agreement ... and the consequential need for practical provisions to give that objective equally meaningful operational expression and opportunity, including in any future structures within Northern Ireland and between North and South.'

4. On relationships within Northern Ireland it states that

both Governments wish to see new structures which would assume executive and legislative responsibilities over a wide range of subjects. These structures must 'provide for the equitable and effective participation in the discharge of these responsibilities by the elected representatives of both communities, and they must secure widespread acceptance throughout both communities.' They should incorporate 'significant measures to promote consensual approaches and the mutual acceptance by representatives of both communities of each other's rights, identities and ethos.'

5. North-South institutions should be created which would have a 'clear institutional identity and purpose and will be mandated by legislation in both Parliaments to discharge or oversee a range of executive functions on matters which the two Governments decide will be administered uniformly throughout the island, or which the two administrations subsequently agree are to be so administered.'

6. The paper states that both Governments envisage that under a new agreement 'a standing intergovernmental conference would be maintained and that representatives of agreed political institutions in Northern Ireland may be formally associated with the work of the Conference, in a manner to be agreed by both Governments after consultation with them. The Intergovernmental Conference would be 'the forum for both Governments to jointly guarantee and monitor the commitment, to be enshrined in the mandate of any new local institutions and entrenched in a new agreement, that such institutions will provide for the equitable and effective participation in power of representatives of both communities.' The Intergovernmental Conference would have 'contingency powers of intervention and redress in the event that devolved institutions fail demonstrably to meet their obligations, or fail altogether to survive or to discharge their designated functions.' The Conference may also monitor and guarantee the effective discharge of its mandate by any new North-South body.