

TEXT OF PARAGRAPH 4 WITH DRAFT UK AMENDMENTS INSERTED  
(Amendments underlined)

\* The Prime Minister reiterates on behalf of the British Government that they have no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland. Their primary interest is to see peace, stability and reconciliation established by agreement among all the people who inhabit the island, and they will work together with the Irish Government to achieve such an agreement, which will embrace the totality of relationships. The role of the British Government will be to encourage, assist and enable such agreement over a period through a process of dialogue and cooperation based on full respect for the rights and identities of both traditions in Ireland. They accept that such agreement may, as of right, take the form of agreed independent structures for the island as a whole. The British Government agree that it is for the people of the island of Ireland alone to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of freely and concurrently given consent, North and South, to bring about a united Ireland, if that is their wish. They reaffirm as binding obligations, both Northern Ireland's statutory constitutional guarantee [that its status as part of the UK will not change without majority consent there] and that they will, for their part, if a majority were clearly to express a wish to join in a united Ireland, introduce the legislation to give effect to that. Similarly they will act to give effect to any measure of agreement on future relationships in Ireland which the people living in Ireland may themselves ~~[deletion]~~ determine without external impediment and on a basis of concurrent North/South consent. They believe that the people of Britain would wish, in friendship to all sides, to enable the people of Ireland to reach agreement on how they may live together in harmony and in partnership, with respect for their diverse traditions and with full recognition of the special links and the unique relationship which exists between the peoples of Britain and Ireland.

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