

JOINT DECLARATION: REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY BRIEFING LINES

1. Key supplementary points (General)

- The Declaration is a sensible text which, in setting out a framework for peace, stability and reconciliation, fully addresses the concerns of both sides of the community in Northern Ireland, and safeguards their vital interests.
- The Declaration fully complements and underpins the Talks process addressing all the key relationships and involving the main constitutional political parties in Northern Ireland as well as the two Governments.
- The text is the sole responsibility of the two Governments.
- It is not the outcome of the Hume/Adams dialogue. In Brussels on 29 October, the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach acknowledged John Hume's courageous and imaginative efforts, but agreed that any peace initiative could be taken only by the two Governments.
- Do not know whether this Declaration will produce peace. But the Provisional Movement has been urging the two Governments to make a Joint Declaration. If Mr Adams wants his claims that he is serious about peace to have any credibility, he knows what to do.
- The Provisionals have presented themselves as interested in securing peace. Yet they have failed to deliver an end to violence. They should do so now. So should the Loyalists.

- The Declaration makes clear the Taoiseach's acceptance that it would be wrong to attempt to impose a united Ireland in the absence of the freely given consent of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland.
- It reiterates Northern Ireland's statutory constitutional guarantee.
- It also reaffirms that the concern of the British Government is to uphold the democratic wish of ["a greater number of"] the people of Northern Ireland.
- The Taoiseach confirms in the Declaration that, in the event of an overall settlement, the Irish Government will, as part of a balanced constitutional accommodation, put forward and support proposals for change in the Irish Constitution which would fully reflect the principle of consent in Northern Ireland.

2. Taoiseach/Irish Government concede that:

- (Paragraph 2) British Government must adhere to Northern Ireland's statutory constitutional guarantee. (This provides that Northern Ireland will not cease to be part of the United Kingdom while that is the wish of a majority of its people.)
- (Paragraph 5) it would be wrong to attempt to impose a united Ireland in the absence of freely given consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland.
- (Paragraph 5) the democratic right of self-determination by the people of Ireland as a whole must be achieved and exercised with and subject to the agreement and consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland.

life and organisation of the Irish state which is represented as a real and substantial threat to the way of life and ethos of any particular tradition - eg the Unionist tradition.

- They will similarly examine (paragraph 6) anything in the Republic which can be represented as not fully consistent with a modern and pluralist society.
- (Paragraph 7) the genuine feelings of all traditions in Northern Ireland, including Unionist attitudes towards the rest of Ireland, must be recognised and acknowledged.