

Michael Ancram's Paragraph for Jim Molyneux

Fully understand the pressures you are under at present. Very grateful for help given in making JD more acceptable as text. Appreciate that acquiescence/non-expostulation will be difficult, but worth it as part of a significant chance for peace. Select Committee now imminent and hope this will help. Understand your concerns about democratic deficit within Northern Ireland and the importance of working to achieve democratic institutions to fill it. While accepting that any such must be part of an overall settlement involving all 3 Strands, share your view that useful emphasis can immediately be put on Strand 1 and am looking forward to receiving your blueprint as important part of the discussions as to how this element can be advanced.

2. The Taoiseach and the Prime Minister are convinced of the inestimable value to both their peoples, and particularly for the next generation, of healing divisions in Ireland and of ending a conflict which has been so manifestly to the detriment of all. Both recognise that the ending of divisions can come about only through the agreement and co-operation of the people, North and South, representing both traditions in Ireland. They therefore make a solemn commitment to promote co-operation at all levels on the basis of the fundamental principles, undertakings, obligations under international agreements, to which they have jointly committed themselves, and the guarantees which each Government has given, (including Northern Ireland's statutory¹ constitutional guarantee, which the British Government hereby reaffirms.) It is their aim to foster agreement and reconciliation, leading to a new political framework founded on consent and encompassing arrangements with Northern Ireland, for the whole island, and between these islands.

This amendment and the amendment to this sentence of paragraph 2 are alternatives.