



Progressive UNIONIST PARTY

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(Constitutional Issues)

Strand 1

If realistic progress is to be made in the negotiations it is essential that fundamental realities are faced-up to by participants.

1. Constitutional Status:

The Acts of Union (1800) created the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. From 1921, after the secession of what is now the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom has comprised Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Today the constitutional position of Northern Ireland is determined principally by both the Acts of Union and the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 in that Northern Ireland shall not cease to be part of the United Kingdom "without the consent of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland voting in a poll..."

As it is clear that such consent is not forthcoming, and will not be, the Progressive Unionist Party will not enter discussions on any matter that would, in its opinion, dilute or diminish Northern Ireland's constitutional position within the Union, nor is it mandated to so do.

The territorial integrity of States is a fundamental principle of international law. This principle has been repeatedly consolidated and endorsed by international consensus, including the United Nations. Governments must abide by and respect the agreed international standards for the protection of all citizens within a State.

2. Constitutional Issues:

The following are some of the constitutional issues that require to be addressed:

- * the democratic deficit in Northern Ireland must be removed;
- * Northern Ireland citizens are denied full equality of citizenship; and
- * the Human Rights entitlement of each citizen must be given full expression.

DEDICATED TO A NON-SECTARIAN, PLURALIST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETY