

Dr John Alderdice
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Dear John

As you know, the opening meeting of Strand III of the current political talks was held in Dublin on 28 July.

During that meeting, the two Governments discussed what their approach should be to the establishment of detailed arrangements for liaison with the Northern Ireland parties during Strand III. The resultant proposals are set out in paragraph 2 of the attached note which we would be happy to discuss further with you and the other party leaders.

At the Strand III meeting on 28 July we also dealt with the formal opening items on the agenda which had been agreed at the meeting in Strand III formation held in London on 30 June. We intend to begin discussion of the substantive agenda in the week beginning 7 September and would propose to hold a liaison meeting shortly thereafter. Perhaps we could have a word in the margins of the Strand II plenary on 2 September to determine a mutually convenient time.

Patrick Mayhew

Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP
Secretary of State
for Northern Ireland

David Andrews

Mr David Andrews TD
Minister for Foreign Affairs