

POLITICAL  
ALLIANCE

*Notes*



**ELDR**

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN LIBERAL,  
DEMOCRAT AND REFORM PARTIES.  
FEDERATION DES PARTIS LIBERAUX,  
DEMOCRATES ET REFORMATEURS EUROPEENS.

ANCRAM'S BILATERALS WITH THE

Introduction

*Gain by 2/3 to 1/2 a confidential basis  
at meeting 11/2/94*

1. The Statement identifies also relevant papers on a basis reached and how further work participants are, of course, free to offer their own interpretations on the matters referred to in the paper. It is also produced without prejudice to the agreed ground rule that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed".

Strand I

Areas where agreement seems capable of being reached

2. An Assembly (of 85 members) elected by proportional representation.
3. A panel of three members separately elected by proportional representation from a single Northern Ireland constituency.
4. Transfer of executive and legislative responsibilities, using the range of subjects from 1973 as a benchmark.
5. Executive responsibilities discharged through Northern Ireland departments, subject to the role and powers of the panel. A system of Departmental Committees; Chairmen and members allocated in broad proportion to party strengths in the Assembly.

POLITICAL TALKS: SUMMARY OF MICHAEL ANCRAM'S BILATERALS WITH THE  
ALLIANCE PARTY, SDLP AND UUP

Introduction

1. This paper reviews recent discussions between Michael Ancram and the three parties, held in the framework of the 26 March 1991 Statement, for the purpose of exploring areas of common ground and identifying issues where further consideration was necessary. It also reflects earlier discussions between the Talks participants and papers presented by them in 1992. The paper has been prepared as a basis for reviewing the levels of understanding that have now been reached and how further work should be carried forward. Other participants are, of course, free to offer their own interpretations on the matters referred to in the paper. It is also produced without prejudice to the agreed ground rule that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed".

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2. An Assembly (of 85 members) elected by proportional representation.
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- 6 Measures to prevent Chairmen of Committees becoming captives of Committees; checks and balances in an Assembly and Committees, including weighted majority voting on some issues.
7. Legislation on transferred matters by the Assembly, subject to the role and powers of the panel.
8. Panel to have consultative, monitoring, referral and representational functions plus some determinative powers. All decisions by consensus.
9. Greater formal protection for human and civil rights.
10. Non-transferred matters to remain the responsibility of the UK Government.

Areas where further consideration is required

11. These include -
  - Precise division of functions and responsibilities between Assembly, Panel, Committees.
  - Appointment of Heads of Departments and their relationship to Committees
  - Legislation - degree of devolution/roles of the Assembly and Panel
  - Minority protection (including duration of panel)
  - Human rights
12. The Strand I Sub-Committee reports of 10 and 16 June 1992, and other papers tabled by the participants during earlier talks are relevant.

Strand II

Areas where agreement seems capable of being reached

13. Practical co-operation between departments and agencies in Northern Ireland/the Republic. Contacts between Heads of Departments and Ministers in the Dail.
14. New institutions/a North/South body established in Westminster/Oireachtas legislation -
  - deriving authority (and finance) from the Assembly/Oireachtas
  - with the capacity to consider matters of mutual benefit or of concern to either side
  - role and responsibilities capable of adjustment to reflect the mutual wishes of the Assembly and Oireachtas
  - capacity to administer executive functions delegated by mutual agreement and legislation of the Assembly and Oireachtas
  - operational and financial legislation to be made in the Assembly and Oireachtas
  - scope for delegation of executive authority, by mutual agreement and legislation of Assembly and Oireachtas, to cross border agencies
  - all decisions by agreement of the two sides.
15. An Assembly/Dail interparliamentary tier.
16. Input from representatives of the UK Government and Parliament as appropriate.

17 A joint unit to support new institutions.

Areas where further consideration is required

18. These include -

- Precise functions, responsibilities and composition of institutions (including possible involvement of the Panel).
- Source of authority and nature of accountability of Northern Ireland participants ie prior mandate and/or subsequent ratification.
- Roles of British and Irish Governments on matters within and beyond the competence of North/South institutions
- Scope for development of new institutions
- Capacity to administer executive functions delegated by mutual agreement and legislation of British and Irish Governments
- Composition and remit of interparliamentary tier

19. Strand II papers submitted by the Talks participants are relevant.

Strand III

Areas where agreement is necessary

20. Structures for continuing co-operation between the two Governments (and with Northern Ireland institutions).

21. Consensus on constitutional issues.

Areas where further discussion is required

22. These include -

- Functions and responsibilities of East/West structures and their relationship with institutions in Northern Ireland and between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

23. The Joint Declaration is relevant to the constitutional issues.

Other Issues

24. New relationships with the European Union.

25. Role of new institutions in security matters.

26. Endorsement: possibly dual referenda.