

25 February 1995,

Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew MP,  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland,  
Northern Ireland Office,  
Stormont Castle,  
BELFAST BT4 3ST.

Thank you for your letter of 21 inst., and the enclosures.

I and my colleagues have read, with some care, the Framework Documents, and our Party Executive and Strategy Committees have met to discuss them. We intend to present our views of the situation to the Annual General Meeting of the Party on Saturday next, the 4th March.

We do of course recognise much of the language, and many of the ideas, set out in the documents, since they are familiar to us from the Talks Process. We are not able to accept the proposals in full as outlined, but see the papers as a basis for negotiation. Some of the ideas are not only acceptable, but indeed welcome. Others are neither welcome nor acceptable. However, we regard the process upon which we have all been engaged for some time, with both optimism and enthusiasm, and would wish to meet, at your convenience, to pursue our discussions.

Dr John T Alderdice  
PARTY LEADER



Northern Ireland Office  
Stormont Castle  
Belfast BT4 3ST

Dr John Alderdice  
55 Knock Road  
BELFAST  
BT5 6LB

21 February 1995

*John Alderdice*

"FRAMEWORKS FOR THE FUTURE" LAUNCH WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 1995

On 26 March 1991 my predecessor Peter Brooke announced proposals aimed at achieving a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the people of these islands. This has become known as the three-stranded Talks approach.

When the resulting talks ended in November 1992 the participants agreed that, while there was no basis to agree a settlement, they had identified most if not all of the elements which would comprise an eventual settlement.

The attached new publication "Frameworks for the Future" sets out the overall shape of a possible comprehensive settlement addressing all three Strands. Part I is the British Government's proposals for new political arrangements within Northern Ireland, and Part II, which has come to be known as Joint Framework Document, is a shared understanding between the British and Irish Governments to assist discussion and negotiations involving the Northern Ireland parties. It looks at arrangements between Northern Ireland and the Republic, and between the two Governments. Its title is "A New Framework for Agreement".





Neither paper is a blueprint for imposition. All the proposals are offered for further discussion. If agreement is reached by the parties in the Talks process then the outcome will be put to the people in a referendum. We are formally launching both sets of proposals in Belfast tomorrow, and the Prime Minister will be making a statement to the House in the afternoon.

I believe that the package represents a considerable step forward, one which I hope the parties will look at very carefully. We will, of course be keen to have the views of the political parties in Northern Ireland on the proposals, and hope to encourage a resumption of talks concerning the important issues they cover.

I felt sure you would welcome a copy of "Frameworks for the Future". Any views you care to express will of course be considered with great interest.

*James*

*Patrick*