

As conveyed by O hUiginn on 28.9.93

PARAGRAPH 4 (To replace paragraph 4 of JD.8)

The Prime Minister reiterates on behalf of the British Government that they have no selfish strategic political or economic interest in Northern Ireland. Their primary interest is to see peace, stability and reconciliation established by agreement among all the people who inhabit the island, and they will work together with the Irish Government to achieve such an agreement, which will embrace the totality of relationships. The role of the British Government will be to encourage, assist and enable such agreement over a period through a process of dialogue and co-operation based on full respect for the rights and identities of both traditions in Ireland. They acknowledge the legitimacy of any form of self-determination for Ireland as a whole which is freely agreed on the basis of consent, North and South, of the people living in Ireland. They accept that such agreement may, as of right, take the form of agreed independent structures for the island as a whole. Both Governments agree that it is for the people of island of Ireland alone to exercise [any rights][their right] of self-determination to bring about a united Ireland, on the basis of freely given consent, North and South. They reaffirm as a binding obligation that they will, for their part, introduce the necessary legislation to give effect to this, or to any measure of agreement on future relationships in Ireland which the people living in Ireland may themselves freely and collectively determine without external impediment and on a basis of concurrent North/South consent. They believe that the people of Britain would wish, in friendship to all sides, to encourage the people of Ireland to reach agreement on how they may live together in harmony and in partnership, with respect for their diverse traditions and with full recognition of the special links and the unique relationship which exists between the peoples of Britain and Ireland.