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BULL POINTS

The Joint Declaration provides a fair and balanced framework for the achievement of peace and political progress. It sets out constitutional principles and political realities which safeguard the vital interests of both sides of the community in Northern Ireland. It reflects the beliefs of both Governments, but compromises the principles of neither.

2. The Taoiseach has generously said (Dail 17.12.93) that he does not know "of any fairer statement that has been or could be made by the British Government with regard to Nationalist ideals than what is set out in paragraph 4 of the Joint Declaration".
3. At the same time, the Declaration fully safeguards the legitimate interests of the Unionist community and includes a full and fair recognition by the Irish government of the consent principle and of wider Unionist concerns.
4. There is an opportunity for peace, and a framework for building on it, should it occur, to seek a wide-ranging political accommodation involving all democratically mandated parties committed to exclusively peaceful methods. Violence is not only wrong in itself but will achieve nothing. The Provisional Movement should renounce it for good and seize the opportunities now before it.
5. In any event, the British Government will continue to pursue actively all its policies to bring violence to an end and to secure political progress. In doing so it will honour the letter and spirit of the Joint Declaration.
6. As the Declaration says, our primary interest is to see peace, stability and reconciliation established by agreement among all the people who inhabit the island and we will work together with the Irish government to achieve such agreement, which will embrace the totality of relationships.

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7. We shall accordingly be working hard, with the Irish Government and the main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland to advance and complete the Talks process. The need for this remains urgent and vital; and its objectives are valid and achievable. If the Provisional Movement wishes to take part they know what they must do to establish eligibility.

8. At the same time, we shall continue to sustain and develop our security policy. Its principles are clear: it is conducted within and subject to the law; resources will be made available appropriate to the nature and level of the threat; and security policies will be conducted in a manner likely to maintain and enhance the confidence of both sides of the community in their fairness and effectiveness.

9. We shall also continue our work to create in Northern Ireland the conditions for a just, peaceful and prosperous society in which local people can exercise greater control over their own affairs. This involves a wide range of policies in the economic and social field.

10. We shall of course continue to work closely with the Irish Government. In doing so we shall seek to strengthen the common ground both developed by, and exemplified in, the Joint Declaration.

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