



Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT4 3ST

IRE
2 - 4 Dec 1993
SIL DIVISION

December 1993

Reverend Dr Ian R K Paisley MP MEP
The Parsonage
17 Cyprus Avenue
BELFAST
BT5 5NT

[Handwritten signature]

At the meeting with the Prime Minister at Hillsborough Castle on 22 December you explained that you would want to be satisfied that any further talks would be taking place on the basis of Peter Brooke's statement of 26 March 1991. I confirmed that the statement of 26 March 1991 is indeed the basis on which we have continued our discussions with the Irish Government and the parties since the last Talks ended in November 1992, and will continue to provide the basis for further discussions.

Given that this is the case, I hope you will now agree to participate in bilateral discussions with Michael Ancram. As you know, he has been involved in confidential, exploratory discussions with the other parties over the past 3 months and these have been helpful for building a relief map of the different parties' positions in preparation for further multilateral talks at an appropriate time. The purpose and basis of the discussions was explained in Michael's letter to you of 26 August.

If you agree, it would be helpful if you would contact Michael's office to make arrangements for a meeting soon after the New Year holiday.

[Handwritten signature: Ian Sinclair]