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FROM: P N BELL
9 MARCH 1994
AUS(L)

- cc PS/PUS (L&B) - B
- PS/Mr Fell - B
- Mr Thomas - B
- Mr Watkins - B
- Mr Brooker - B
- Mr Daniell - B
- Mr Maccabe - B
- Mr Archer - B
- HMA Dublin - B

DESK IMMEDIATE!!!

MR KYLE - B

IGC: REPORT OF THE LIAISON GROUP

I should be grateful if you could pass the attached paper immediately to Mr O'Donovan. It represents my shot at a paper, on lines agreed at yesterday's Liaison Group Meeting which we hope to submit to Thursday's meeting of the IGC. It fulfils, I hope, Mr O'LUiguinn stipulation of being "business-like". It is also brief. Although both sides might well want to see very much more in it, it is meant, however briefly, to cover all the chief issues of matters of vital concern to both sides.

I should be grateful for urgent comments.

(SIGNED):

P N BELL

DRAFT

REPORT FROM THE ANGLO-IRISH LIAISON GROUP

1. The Liaison Group has considered how the two Governments might reach a shared understanding on the [framework] of an outcome to the Talks process like to prove acceptable to all the participants which would realise the goal "a new beginning for the relationships in Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the peoples of the two islands". They noted that any such outcome should be guided by the principles set out in the Anglo-Irish Agreement 1985, the Statement of 26 March 1991 and also build on the Joint Declaration of 15 September 1993.

2. In considering what might be an acceptable outcome from future talks, the Liaison Group noted that:

- both governments are committed for the search for a comprehensive political settlement covering all three Strands;
- they are also committed to seek to create new institutions and structures, along with the Northern Ireland constitutional parties, through a process of political dialogue;
- the British Government's role will be encourage, facilitate and enable the achievement of a comprehensive agreement over a period through a process of dialogue and co-operation [as stated in paragraph 4 of the Joint Declaration];

- it is important to proceed in ways which maximise the prospect of securing the support of all the people of Ireland noting in particular the Taoiseach's observations [, in paragraph 5 of the Joint Declaration] that stability and well being will not be found under any political system which is refused allegiance or which is rejected on grounds of identity by a significant minority of those governed by it.

3. The Liaison Group has noted that, while both sides are clear that any outcome from the process of dialogue must be acceptable, there are some differences of emphasis about the best means of securing the widespread support that will be necessary for any settlement to be successful. In particular, while both sides agree that there are issues which properly fall with the responsibility of the two governments (including, for example, the nature of any institutional arrangements between them), there are potentially significant differences;

both (i) about the demarcation between matters falling to the two Governments alone and those requiring negotiation and agreement between other participants in the Talks process [the Irish Side has, for example, canvassed the idea that the two Governments alone might decide the mandate, scope and administrative and executive roles of new North/South structures];

and (ii) about the extent, if any, to which the two Governments should in advance of a wider dialogue commit themselves to priorities agreed between themselves alone, even in matters fully within their responsibilities, given the 26 March 1991 ground rules that there should be an open agenda and that nothing should be agreed unless everything is agreed.

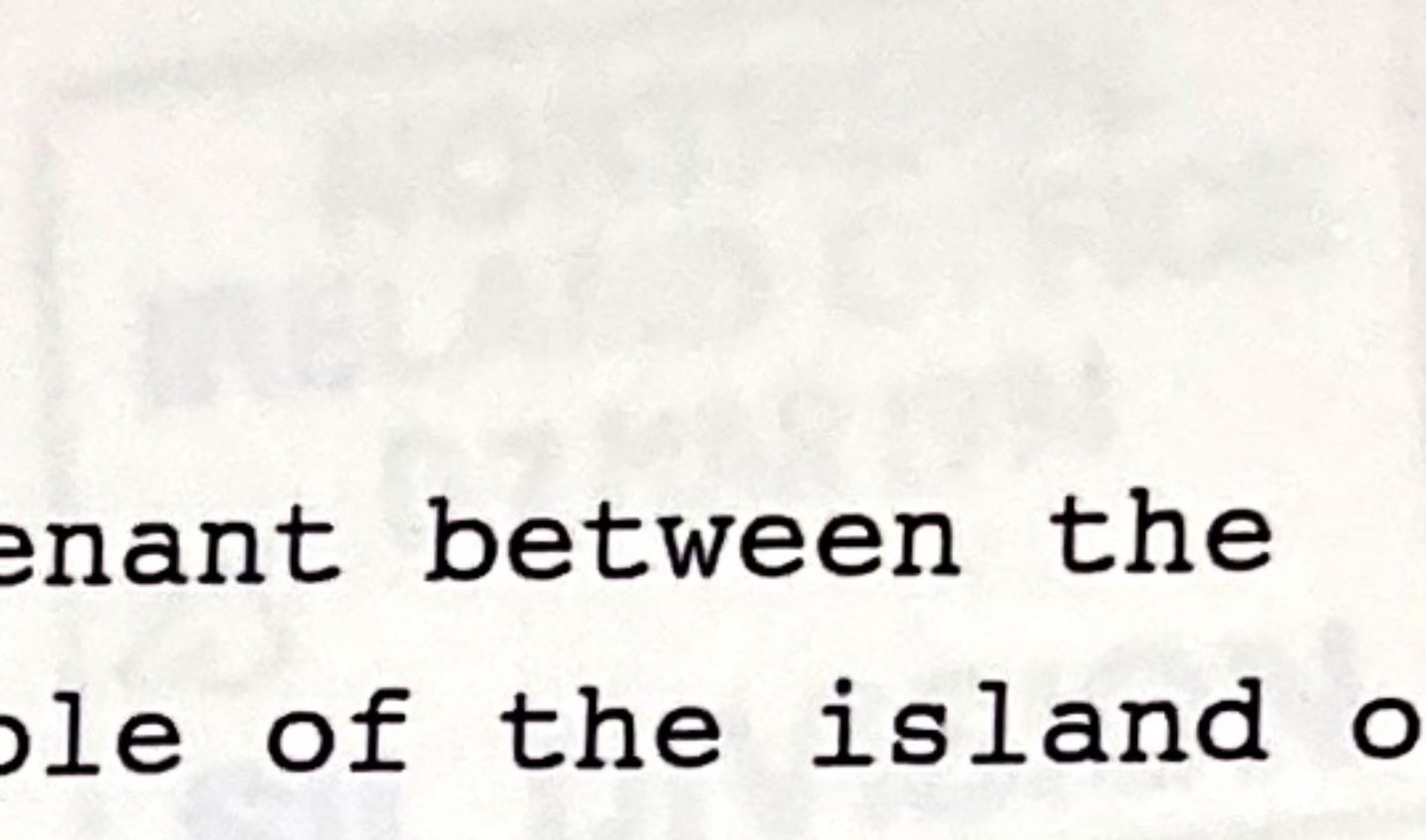
4. However the Liaison Group proposes that, if Ministers agree, these important points should be put to one side for the present and

that it should, without prejudice to the eventual resolution of this matter, proceed to address the substantive issues so that the two sides may develop the shared understanding referred to in paragraph one.

5. The Liaison Group also recommend, in specific terms, that they should be invited to submit a more detailed paper, setting out their more detailed consideration of the elements of an acceptable outcome from future talks, to the next meeting of the Inter-governmental Conference.

6. The Liaison Group believe that the elements of a shared understanding should include the following:

- [the] [a statement or re-affirmation of] principles held in common by the two Governments;
- provisions for a balanced accommodation of the two main traditions in Ireland on constitutional issues;
- new governmental structures, including "East/West" arrangements between the two Governments, which would reflect the totality of relationships between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland;
- the possible mandate, scope and administrative executive roles of new North/South structures;
- means of guaranteeing that all new structure [including devolved structures within Northern Ireland] will ensure full protection and expression for basic human, political, social and cultural rights on the basis of equality of opportunity, equity of treatment and parity of esteem, irrespective of political, cultural or religious affiliation or gender; and



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- the Irish proposal of a Charter or Covenant between the elected representatives of all the people of the island of Ireland, underpinning and complementing any new structures.

Mr Bell
Mr Walsby
Mr Brown
Mr Daniels
Mr Parsons
Mr Archer
SNA Dublin
Mr Kyle

- the need for new locally accountable political institutional structures within Northern Ireland, with executive and legislative responsibility and the broad criteria likely to render them widely acceptable across the community.

LIAISON GROUP: JOINT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

I attach the paper as revised (a small change in paragraph 9). Mr Kyle is invited to lead this over to the Irish Side for discussion in the Liaison Group tomorrow.

(signed)

G J Thomas
Omb 6447