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**Ulster
Unionist Party**

NEWS RELEASE

Friday, 14th December, 1973, at 12.45 p.m.

Release Time:

SPEECH BY BRIAN FAULKNER AT JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LUNCHEON IN THE EUROPA HOTEL, FRIDAY, 14TH DECEMBER,
AT 12.45 P.M.

18NLG
OLARLANN
Brian Faulkner

The real achievement of the Sunningdale Conference is that it has created conditions in which, in the short term, violence and fear cannot survive in Northern Ireland, and in which in the long term greater economic prosperity and a bond of friendship can take root between the people of both North and South.

How was this done?

Certainly it was not by sacrifice of principle on the part of anyone. Rather it was that means were provided whereby people holding conflicting aspirations can accept each other's right to hold to their particular convictions and yet work together in the interests of the whole community.

Let me detail the means that we have used.

First of all we have each - British Government, Irish Government, Northern Ireland Executive - accepted in full the terms of the Constitution Act.

Under that Act we all recognise that Ulster's position in the United Kingdom can only be changed by the people voting to change it.

Secondly the Irish Government has fully accepted the status of Northern Ireland and has solemnly declared that it cannot be changed until a majority of Ulster people wish to change it.

That Declaration, together with one from the British Government will be registered as an International Agreement at the United Nations.

That recognition of our status provides the confidence which enables Unionists to co-operate over a wide field with the Irish Government.

Thirdly we have created the institutions which enable not just the S.D.L.P. but I believe the political minority in Ulster as a whole and the political majority in the Republic to identify with all the Authorities of Government in Northern Ireland. The creation, for instance, of a Council of Ministers with equal numbers from Belfast and Dublin will provide this formal machinery for the following:

- 1) Real working together between R.U.C. and Civic Guards to end terrorism throughout Ireland.
- 2) Legal actions to deal with fugitives from justice in the North and in the South.
- 3) Economic co-operation on such items as regional development, tourism, and agricultural matters to name only a few.
- 4) A Unionist veto on all decisions of the Council because unanimity must apply to all decisions.

Just look separately at these matters -

- 1) The Chief Constable of the R.U.C. and the Commissioner of the Civic Guards can now meet regularly to co-ordinate the work of their separate police forces. If that had happened four years ago we

/could have stemmed.....

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/could have stemmed the violence at the start and avoided the need to send for the Army. We might have saved hundreds of lives. We have achieved what has been missing for generations - respect and support for the R.U.C. from the whole community in Northern Ireland and from the Irish Government.

We have also got a firm commitment from the British Government that as soon as the present security problem is resolved, responsibility for the police will be restored to the Stormont Government. Did anyone believe we would return from Sunningdale with that commitment?

- 2) There will be immediate legal action in the South to deal with murderers irrespective of the motives for their crimes.

And simultaneously a joint Anglo/Irish Commission will examine the whole question of extradition and common law enforcement as a matter of extreme urgency.

We are all determined that fugitives from justice will not find sanctuary North or South.

- 3) As soon as an Executive is formally established we shall enter into discussions with the Dublin Government to seek means of providing such economic co-operation as will make sure that no opportunity is lost to improve living standards on both sides of the Border.

All of this is only possible because from three separate Parties we have come together to form what amounts to a Coalition Government. In doing so we have, as I have said, stuck to our separate ideals whilst respecting the democratically expressed will of the majority to stay within the United Kingdom.

I recognise that there are many Ulstermen and women who still feel the shock of the loss of the old Stormont Government. They have lost confidence in politics, they are deeply suspicious of every new proposal. I sympathize with their feelings. And I want to speak directly to them to-day and tell them with all my conviction that I believe their principles are absolutely protected in the present proposals for Government in Northern Ireland. More than that, I believe that everyone can look to the future with greater confidence than ever before.

For almost two years we have had no regional government here. Now we are embarking upon a new government and it is one which, in my view, can provide stronger government than Ulster has ever known. It will be stronger because of the support which will come to it from both within and without Northern Ireland.

The people of Ulster will find us a strong and determined team.

We will not tolerate violence from any quarter.

We will energetically push forward a social and economic programme.

We believe that practical results are a better criterion of the ability to govern than the mouthing of slogans or the adoption of stances many of them moulded to suit a former generation.

Ref: BF/NB.