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Brief for Ministers on proposals for New Northern
Administration.

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The Inter-Departmental Unit on the North of Ireland, in compliance with the Taoiseach's instructions of last week, considered major aspects of the Northern situation having a bearing on a settlement. The Unit prepared five separate papers which are in this folder. These are:

- A. Reformulation of the British Guarantee
- B. New Northern Administration
- C. Council of Ireland
- D. New policing arrangements for Northern Ireland
- E. Action by the South.

Obviously the subjects of the various papers are inter-related and an attempt is made to set out the more important inter-relationships. However, the number of possible over-all "package" solutions is very great and it is considered that a revision of the various papers will be necessary when the shape of a possible over-all solution becomes clearer.

At the same time it seems clear that any acceptable settlement must contain the following basic elements:

1. A system to govern the North equitably for the immediate future; no unionist hegemony within that system.
2. Acceptance for the time being of the continuance of the Union
3. A real prospect of Irish unity eventually with provision for progress by agreement towards it.

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