THE POSSIBLE FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURES OF A COUNCIL OF IRELAND

1) That the Council be generally centred around a model with two principal institutions, viz.
   - a Ministerial-Executive body which would be the highest decision-making institution;
   - a Consultative Assembly involving elected representatives from North and South;

2) That these bodies will be served by a secretariat.

3) That the Ministerial-level body should have the following features:
   - equal representation from North and South;
   - membership varying according to agenda before the Council;
   - members nominated by Northern and Southern administrations;
   - operating, initially at least, on basis of unanimity;
   - chairmanship rotating between North and South from meeting to meeting;
   - individual members of Council would not be assigned separate "Ministerial portfolios" in relation to Council's various activities;
   - meet at least monthly, alternately in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

4) That that Council might have three possible roles, viz.
   - exclusive executive authority on all-Ireland basis for certain defined functions;
- a harmonising role in relation to functions retained by Northern and Southern administrations;
- a general consultative role.

5) That the Parliamentary body should have the following features:

- representation on a proportional basis from Dáil and Northern Assembly, with a total membership of about 60;
- members to be nominated by Parliament and Assembly, not elected, at any rate in the first instance;
- have advisory and review, and such decision-making powers as may be agreed;
- members to be paid.

6) That the Consultative Assembly would have the power to make decisions, on the basis of an agreed majority, about the future evolution of the Council.

7) That the Secretariat should have the following features:

- permanent and full-time staff, headed by a Secretary-General with powers of initiative;
- its staff to be employed by and directly responsible to the Council.

8) That the Council should have a role in the area of policing provided that this function in relation to Northern Ireland is devolved to it by the British Government.

9) That under the auspices of the Council of Ireland a common Code of Human Rights be operated by a Court of Human Rights and a common Court system for certain offences be established.

10) That the Council enjoy a degree of financial responsibility and that the possibility of its having its own resources be considered.