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The Assembly Unionist Party met at Parliament Buildings, Stormont yesterday to review the political situation following the General Election.

The party re-affirmed its commitment to maintain Northern Ireland as an integral part of the United Kingdom and in that interest to work for the welfare of Northern Ireland in the context of the constitutional arrangements laid down by the Westminster Parliament.

There was general agreement that the results of the Election in Northern Ireland reflected wide-spread concern in the Unionist Community about the implications of the Sunningdale Agreement and the proposed Council of Ireland in particular.

The party accepted that there were deep fears that the Council of Ireland could represent a first step towards a United Ireland. The party also noted the judgement of the Supreme Court in Dublin in the Boland case published on Friday and the decision of the court that no agreement existed to accept the right of the people of Northern Ireland to determine their own constitutional future. The party re-affirmed that no discussion or co-operation between North and South could be contemplated in the absence of such an agreement.

The party places on record its continuing commitment that the best interests of Northern Ireland will be served by co-operation in Government between the two communities on a basis of mutual respect and by co-operation between North and South which truly respects the constitutional wishes of the majority and involve effective joint action against terrorists in general and fugitive offenders in particular.

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