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The Government have noted the statement made by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr. Humphrey Atkins, in London today, indicating the intention to convene a Conference on proposals for the transfer back to locally elected representatives of some of the powers at present exercised by Westminster.

The Government have consistently urged the need for political movement in Northern Ireland and for the establishment there of a form of administration acceptable to both parts of the community.

They await with interest the publication of the consultative document to serve as a basis for the proposed Conference on the lines of the Taoiseach's reply to Parliamentary Questions in Dail Eireann on 17th. October 1979.

26th. October 1979.