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DRAFT

Government reaction to British White Paper
of 2nd July, 1980.

Copied to P. Walshy
M. Burke
2/7/80
Mr. Murphy

The proposals put forward in the White Paper are intended as a basis for further discussion and consultation on the future Government of Northern Ireland.

While the Government welcome discussion on possible solutions for the situation there, they consider and have made known their view that a solution cannot be found in the context of Northern Ireland alone, but must also take into account the reality of the political, social and economic relationship between the two parts of Ireland and be seen in the context of new and closer political co-operation between the Irish and British Governments. For this reason, they welcome the emphasis in the White Paper* [not only on the need to heal divisions between the two sections of the Northern Ireland community but also on the interest both sections have in recognising the links that exist between Northern Ireland and this State, and on the unique relationship between the peoples of Britain and Ireland.]

[on the importance, as an aid to peace and reconciliation, of developing links between North and South in Ireland and between Ireland and Britain.]

* paragraphs 20 to 22

They look forward to further discussion and development of these aspects.

The Government will give further consideration to the possibilities for progress in the light of the views expressed by the representatives of the people of Northern Ireland.