



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
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## ANNEX I

The Government believe that there should be a place on the agenda in the Talks process for a discussion of constitutional issues. These issues may have implications for relationships within the island of Ireland, and the possible agenda for Strand 2 provides a place for constitutional matters to be raised. The conclusion of the discussion of these issues may also have implications for any new and more broadly based agreement which may emerge from the Talks. The British Government would see no difficulty in accepting that any such agreement should incorporate all three elements of Article 1 of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Without anticipating substantive exchanges, it is right to let you know that HMG will express the view that, in the interest of achieving the "new beginning for relationships" envisaged in the 26 March Statement, and of ensuring that any new structures to emerge from the Talks process are acceptable, agreement on constitutional issues ought to be our aim in the Talks as a whole, bearing in mind the need to reconcile and to acknowledge the rights of the two major traditions that exist in Ireland. It will be a matter for each of the two Governments to consider what implications, if any, this may have. We have noted that your Government has confirmed that in the Talks as a whole delegations may raise aspects of the Irish Constitution in the context of the other issues to be considered; and we for our part acknowledge that your Government or, in the course of the process, any delegation, may wish to raise other constitutional issues in relation to Northern Ireland of particular concern to them.