



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Questions relating to DUP Statement

- Q. 1 You mention on Page 4 that the feeling of Britishness is almost "genetically encoded" among Unionists.
- How do you reconcile this with the rejection by the unionist leadership of the Anglo-Irish Agreement which was approved in Westminster after 473 votes to 47.
- Q. 2 On Page 5 the statement says that "those who support ... the continuance of the Union will never consent to any process or settlement which would precipitate movement towards a united Ireland".
- Does this mean that it would not be legitimate for a nationalist politician to work for change in the status of Northern Ireland by legal means and with respect for the principle of consent?
 - Could such a politician participate in the Government of Northern Ireland?
 - Could a nationalist politician in that position work openly for the realisation of the nationalist aspiration, again by legitimate means and by consent?
- Q. 3 On Page 5 you speak of Britishness as a sense of shared adversities, triumphs and sacrifices.
- Would the UUP accept that nationalists within Northern Ireland have a completely different attitude, based on their historical experience?

- What practical acknowledgement would the UUP give to that different viewpoint?

Q. 4 On Page 6 you mention a Unionist preference for a modern pluralist and liberal democracy.

- What efforts have the Unionist made in the past to create a "pluralist and liberal democracy" in respect of the two traditions in Northern Ireland?
- (Is it the case that the Constitution of the UUP reserves a significant number of places on its Council and executive committee ex officio for members of secret Protestant organisations such as the Orange Order?)
- (When did the party change its rules to permit Roman Catholic unionists to be members?)

Q. 5 On Page 7 in the second paragraph you refer to the basis for the establishment of Northern Ireland.

- Would you agree that Northern Ireland was defined, as it were, from Belfast outwards, to encompass the maximum area of the historic Province of Ulster, compatible with a safe unionist majority?
- Would you accept that that delimitation included counties which had a nationalist majority and that that was an added source of resentment?
- Would you agree that Northern Ireland was created and its boundaries fixed solely by reference to the interests of the unionist community?

- Would you agree that that unionist majority, encoded if I may borrow your word, into the very foundation of Northern Ireland will tend to reproduce itself in every test of opinion where Northern Ireland is the frame of reference?
- Do you think that has any implications for desirable attributes of democracy such as an alternation of power?
- Would you agree that in all the history of Stormont that change of power never occurred, that no nationalist ever sat or could hope to sit at the Cabinet table.
- Is it true that in the fifty years of Stormont's existence the only piece of legislation ever enacted at nationalist behest was one Bill for the protection of wildfowl?
- So that anyone who wanted a healthy alternation of power in Northern Ireland would have to take account of the communal majority "encoded" into the foundation of Northern Ireland and therefore qualify the operation of majority rule?
- Would you agree to qualify the operation of majority rule?
- Would you believe that the nationalist aspiration can be expressed only in the space accorded to it by the unionist majority?

- You would agree therefore that in accepting Northern Ireland as the political frame of reference, nationalists would be accepting an entity which made it very unlikely that their aspirations could be realised?
- What incentive would nationalists have in such circumstances to accept this entity as the proper frame of reference for them?

Q. 6 On Page 10 you refer to the establishment of a benevolent, liberal and pluralistic democracy in Northern Ireland.

- Do you accept that this must involve equal respect and recognition for the two traditions in administrative, political and symbolic structures?

Q. 7 On Page 10 you refer to an "Inter-Irish Relations Committee".

- What precise role would this institution have?

Q. 8 On Page 10 you suggest that Unionist involvement is an obvious pre-requisite for the achievement of peace, stability and reconciliation.

- Do you feel the same is true for the nationalist community in Northern Ireland?

Q. 9 On Page 12 you say that unionists do not accept the Kingdom cannot provide a satisfactory Government for all citizens, whatever their aspirations.

- Nationalists have rejected British structures because of a particular and tragic historical experience of them. Unionists have never experienced all-Ireland political structures. Therefore their fears are, in a strict sense, hypothetical. Why must we rule out the possibility that unionists could be catered for in all-Ireland structures, designed specifically to cater for their ethos and their links with the wider British community?
- Why must nationalists in Northern Ireland accept that their aspiration must be catered for within British political structures and yet it is wrong to ask unionists to consider whether, in an exactly parallel way, their ethos could not be catered for within Irish political structures?

Q. 10 You state on Page 19 that terrorism can only be comprehensively defeated when there is a real will to do so.

- Do you accept that there cannot be a purely military solution, and that a political solution which meets the legitimate concerns of both communities is essential to peace?

Q. 11 On Page 21 you mention the need for close North-South cooperation in relation to Europe.

- Can you give us more details of your thinking in this regard?