



**An Chartlann Náisiúnta**  
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STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT ON NI TALKS

The Government have worked intensively over the past six months for a successful outcome to the Talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

Our commitment to this process and to the achievement of its objectives is undiminished by the ending of the present phase of negotiations.

We are determined to work for the resumption at the earliest possible date of a process of dialogue and negotiation involving the two Governments and the constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. We shall play an active role in the process of informal consultations aimed at finding the way forward.

We remain dedicated to the pursuit of a lasting settlement which will accommodate the two traditions in Ireland on equal terms and will bring about a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the peoples of these islands.

The dialogue and negotiations which have taken place this year have been unprecedented in their scope and importance. For the first time in seventy years, Irish Government Ministers have

engaged in a direct and sustained dialogue with Unionist leaders. This process has already accomplished the first essential condition for progress: It has enabled each of the main traditions in Ireland to define for the other the full dimensions of the sincerely held positions which must be reconciled in any lasting settlement, and to accept that new political arrangements must give expression to the identity and validity of each tradition. Future efforts must now be directed at securing agreement on how this can best be achieved.

The Government believe that these very tangible gains, and the considerable body of work already done, offer a promising foundation for the early resumption of negotiations. The intervening period might be availed of by all participants for the informal consultation envisaged in the concluding statement, and for further internal preparation.

We share the conviction expressed by the independent Chairman, Sir Ninian Stephen, that the objectives set in the Talks process are achievable. We hope that all participants will find it possible to cooperate in a constructive endeavour to resume the necessary process of negotiation, building on the experience and insights gained in the Talks, so as to secure a fair, honourable and durable accommodation in the interests of all the people of Ireland.

11 November, 1992