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18 DECEMBER FORMULA ON GAP FOR TALKS

To allow an opportunity for talks to take place [on the basis announced on 26 March | the two Governments have agreed that after the next meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference there will be no further meeting of the Conference until after the UK General Election has been called, when the talks would cease and a meeting of the Conference would be held. The two Governments envisage that another Conference would be held immediately after the election. The post-election Conference would confirm that the next meeting would not be held for another two months or until the end of June, whichever is the later, given that all the Northern Ireland participating parties have agreed that if the talks have not been concluded before the election is called and if there is no change of Administration the talks will be resumed within two weeks after polling day on the same basis. It would be open to that Conference to extend this period if that seemed appropriate.

18 December 1991

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