



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Paddy Teahon,

This is a document I can live with. Paragraphs 1 and 2 are new. Paragraph 3 is based on the document John Hume showed me. A short statement is best.

John Bruton.

21.5.96

Document

1. The Government will communicate regularly and at the highest level with Sinn Féin, if and when an IRA ceasefire is instituted on the basis of August 1994. It will establish a regular calendar of such meetings. It will continue to have intensive dialogue with other parties, on a basis to be agreed with each.
2. The Irish Government has been working for an even closer coming together of all the people, and of the two traditions, in Ireland on the basis of consent and by agreement. The form and nature of such coming together is a matter for negotiations and voluntary agreement on the basis of consent in both jurisdictions. The pursuit of this approach is, in the Government's view, the appropriate way of fulfilling its constitutional and political responsibilities.
3. In the meantime, the Government will co-operate with the SDLP and Sinn Féin on all issues related to the protection of the human and democratic dignity of Nationalists in Northern Ireland in a way that will ensure parity of esteem and equality of political, economic, social and cultural treatment for the people of both traditions there.