



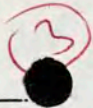
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THE NEW NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
Office of the Deputy First Minister (Designate)

"RECEIVED - 4 DEC 1998

CofJ

PRESS RELEASE

3/12/98

STATEMENT FROM DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

- The implementation of the Agreement is vital for the future of our society. There has been an impasse in recent months as you all know.
- I have done everything I can in recent months to advance the Agreement.
- Tony Blair spent last night with all concerned in an effort to break the logjam. It was an intervention I very much appreciated.
- For my part I reached agreement with the PM on the following points:
 - on North South Implementation Bodies there will be
 - a Trade and Business Development Body
 - a Tourism Body
 - a Strategic Transport Body
 - an EU Programmes Body

There will be 10 Departments with a stand alone Department of Finance and Personnel.
- As far as I am concerned my negotiations with the PM and the other Parties have been completed on this basis.
- That is the deal that has been done and I stand by it.
- It is now for the other Parties to confirm their participation in the agreement brokered by the PM.

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