

*Election Files*

PS/PUS (L&B)  
 Mr Brennan  
 Mr Bourn (B)  
 Mr Burns  
 Mr Buxton (B)  
 Mr Gilliland (B)  
 Mr Palmer (B)  
 Mr Doyne Ditmas (B)  
 Mr Chalmers (B)  
 Mr Angel  
 Mr Merifield  
 Mr Norris  
 Heads of Division (L&B)

cc: PS/Sir Ewart Bell (B) ✓  
 Miss Davies (B)



THE GENERAL ELECTION - PARTY MANIFESTOS

The Conservative, Labour and SDP/Liberal Alliance manifestos have now been issued. The passages in each relating to Northern Ireland are set out below for information:

(a) The Conservative Manifesto:

NORTHERN IRELAND

"In Northern Ireland, building upon courage, commitment and increasing success of our security forces, we will give the highest priority to upholding law and order. We will continue to give the support essential for the Province to overcome its economic difficulties.

The people of Northern Ireland will continue to be offered a framework for participation in local democracy and political progress through the Assembly. There will be no change in Northern Ireland's constitutional position in the United Kingdom without devolution of powers without widespread support throughout the community.

We believe that a close practical working relationship between the United Kingdom and the Government of the Republic can contribute to peace and stability in Northern Ireland without threatening in any way the position of the majority community in the Province".

(b) The New Hope for Britain - Labour's Manifesto:

NORTHERN IRELAND

"Labour believes that Ireland should by peaceful means and on the basis of consent, be united, and recognises that this will be achieved with the introduction of socialist policies. We respect and support, however, the right of the Northern Ireland people to remain within the UK, although this does not mean that Unionist leaders can have a veto on political development; and we accept that, to achieve agreement and consent between the two parts of Ireland, we must create greater unity within the Northern Ireland community.

In our 1981 conference statement and in Labour's Programme 1982, we set out in full Labour's policy on Northern Ireland. We will aim to establish an agreed, devolved administration. In the meantime, we will continue with direct rule. We will also initiate early discussions between the British government, the Irish government, the Irish Labour Party, and the trade unions on both sides of the border, and political representatives of the people of Northern Ireland, on how best to proceed with our policy of unification by consent.

Tory policies have been a disaster for the Northern Ireland economy. Unemployment has soared. The economy is in ruins. Housing and the social services are in desperate straits. Labour will give new hope to Northern Ireland. We will create jobs and provide investment. We will use all of the economic planning powers and institutions set out in this document - together with a massive injection of public resources - to rebuild the economy.

We will also act on security and civil rights, along the lines set out in our 1981 statement. We will repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Payment of Debt Act and reform the system of Diplock courts. We will provide equal rights for women, including rights to abortion, and make progress towards an integrated comprehensive system of education".

(c) Working together for Britain SDP/Liberal Alliance  
Programme for Government:

"In Northern Ireland to encourage a non-sectarian approach to the problems of the province. We support the present Northern Ireland Assembly and will work towards a return to devolved power in place of direct rule from Westminster. We favour the early establishment of an Anglo-Irish consultative body at Parliamentary level representing all-parties at Westminster, Belfast and Dublin".

2. We have already sent copies to Central Secretariat for distribution to Northern Ireland Departments. PAB will be letting us have the manifestos of the Northern Ireland parties shortly.

R H Greaves

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19 May 1983