



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

25.

From the Private Secretary

20 October 1988

Dear Mike

I attach a copy of a joint letter the Prime Minister has received from the Rt. Hon James H. Molyneux, M.P. and the Rev. Ian K. Paisley.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature, to reach me by Thursday 3 November please.

Z...

Andy

(P. A. BEARPARK)

Mike Maxwell, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.



20/10

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

20 October, 1988.

Dear Prime Minister,

We were astonished to hear Tom King declare in a BBC interview on Sunday, 16 October, that he did not know what the Unionist position is.

You will be aware that on 26 January we handed to the Secretary of State a set of proposals for an alternative Agreement, designed to achieve the aims of peace, stability and reconciliation.

As no response had been received, we asked for a further meeting, which took place on 26 May, at which we confirmed the points contained in our document.

In the past five months we have publicly expressed our conviction that our proposals offer the best prospects for progress.

We are sending you the enclosed copy as it is possible that the Northern Ireland Office has mislaid our document and we feel we have a duty to ensure that the Government as a whole is aware of the nature of our proposals, particularly as no such proposals have been put forward by the SDLP.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Molyneaux

JAMES H MOLYNEAUX

Ian Paisley

IAN K. PAISLEY.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1.

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A BRITISH IRISH AGREEMENT

We submit these proposals in order to offer Government unionist participation in formulating a new British-Irish Agreement that would supersede the present Anglo-Irish Accord, meet the issues that it has identified and gain unionist support.

We share with the government the desire to move towards peace, stability and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. Indeed as we reside in the Province there attaches to us the greater interest in achieving these laudable goals.

We recognise it is HMG we have to convince, therefore the realities upon which these proposals are based are not necessarily those that unionists would like to exist nor even those that unionists contend do exist but rather those that the government has demonstrated it believes do exist.

In as much as the government entered into and proceeded with the Anglo-Irish Agreement, unionists take it for granted, based upon the terms of the Agreement, that the areas of concern for the Government are:-

1. relationship(s) with the Republic of Ireland.
2. the role of the minority in any future structure of government in N.I.
3. the policy, practices and procedures to protect and preserve the rights of individuals and minorities in N.I.

The Rt. Hon.
10 Downing Street
London W.C.2

Jan K. Paisley
JAN K. PAISLEY

It is the aim of our proposals to regularise and normalise relations with the Republic of Ireland and to effect progress towards a system of devolution in the Province that will enjoy widespread consent in the community.

We see the following aids being employed to foster an improvement of relationships with the Republic of Ireland. We strongly contend that the Republic should amend its Constitution to remove from it the highly offensive element of its territorial claim of jurisdiction over Northern Ireland.

(1) It would be open to the Republic of Ireland to establish a Government Office in Northern Ireland in common with accepted International practice. Such an office would provide a point of contact no less adequate, to those that desire or require it, than that available through Maryfield.

(2) A joint- British/Irish Parliamentary Body to promote better understanding and improve relationships among Parliamentarians throughout the British Isles.

(3) Periodic contacts as part of a UK team in meeting Republic of Ireland Ministers concerning non-transferred functions.

(4) Ad-hoc meetings between Government Ministers in the Republic of Ireland and appropriate NI representatives.

(5) An External Affairs Committee, drawn from the Assembly in proportion to Party strengths, shall supervise and oversee matters of mutual advantage and common concern between the two States. The Committee would also monitor and consider Northern Ireland's relation with the rest of the U.K., the EEC, etc. The Committee would engage in whatever consultations are necessary with the relevant authorities.

Our proposals for internal government are built upon the policies of the UUP and the DUP and within the framework suggested to the Prime Minister in the communication from the two unionist leaders dated 28.8.1985.

We believe the proposals are capable of attracting widespread acceptance throughout the community. As the structure is based upon proportionality, majority and minority alike have a real say, influence and part in the administration and decision making of the Province.

Each Party will have a role commensurate with their support in the community. The participation of minority representatives ensures their community's interests are not threatened while the unionist interests are safeguarded by their majority in the committees and ultimately in the Assembly. In short it involves the minority in a very real way and at an equal level while still guaranteeing the rights of the majority. The minority can rightly say that it is represented at the highest level.

In relation to the protection of individual rights and minority safeguards we have specific proposals and in negotiations will approach this matter with considerable flexibility.

The proposals outlined represent a genuine attempt to reach a consensus and if other parties to negotiations approach the task with no less magnanimity then agreement is obtainable.

(5) An External Affairs Committee, drawn from the Assembly in proportion to its strengths, shall supervise and oversee all external affairs and conduct relations with the United Kingdom. The Committee would also monitor and coordinate Northern Ireland's relations with the rest of the world. The Committee shall be empowered to make such arrangements as may be necessary with the relevant authorities.

[Submitted 26 January 1988]