

PS/SOFS (B)
 PS/PMG (L & B)
 S/MOFS (L & B)
 PS/PUS (L & B)
 PS/MR FELL
 MR THOMAS
 MR LEDLIE
 MR ALSTON
 MR BELL
 MR A PWILSON
 MR DJR HILL
 MR D MCNEIL
 MR COOKE
 THE PRIME MINISTER
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a m [Signature]

Thank you for your letter of 15 November about the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

I have noted the points you made. You are aware of the Government's own position which is firmly on the public record.

You explained very clearly your desire to see the Agreement replaced. In that context I would remind you that the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland made it clear earlier this year that they would be prepared to consider a new and more broadly based agreement or structure if such an agreement could be arrived at through direct discussion and negotiation between all the parties concerned. That undertaking formed part of the basis for the recent talks, announced by Mr Brooke on 26 March. It also remains on the table for the fresh talks which Mr Brooke is endeavouring to get under way and about which he is consulting you, other Northern Ireland party leaders and the Irish Government.

Yours Sincerely,
 John H.

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The Reverend Ian Paisley, M.E.P., M.P.