

**MEMO**

From: Gregory Campbell
Minister for Regional Development

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Tel:

Date: 12 September 2000

To: First Minister
Deputy First Minister

cc: Mr Nesbitt
Mr Haughey
Mr Loughran
Perm Secretaries
Dr McCormick
Mr Haire

PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT

Following my previous response to you in respect of departmental priorities and the Draft Programme for Government there are aspects of the Programme which cause me serious concern.

I have discussed these concerns with Mr Morrow, my ministerial colleague in DSD, and although he is responding separately as to his own departmental priorities, wishes to be associated with these views I am expressing to you in the more general and political context of the Programme for Government Draft.

The underpinning philosophy is overwhelmingly Nationalist in its focus, language and expression.

This Programme for Government, were it accepted, would lack credibility in political terms among the majority of the 'Unionist Community'.

It is postulated on the basis of the Nationalist Analysis which permeates the Belfast Agreement. It does not accurately reflect the political realities of Northern Ireland.

It emphasises context and not content. It substitutes rhetoric for real proposals. It is not so much a Programme for Government as Propaganda of Government.

The people of Northern Ireland who are looking for substance and not spin will be disappointed in this document.

It is our view that there must be a greater concentration on outlining the activities that are to be undertaken within the Programme for Government and less repetition of meaningless verbal padding.

The normal person in the street who awaits this document is more concerned with action and will not be enthusiastic about the prospect of studying a huge report that contains little detail as to the real practical issues to be confronted.

Gregory Campbell

GREGORY CAMPBELL