

FROM : MR J A GIBBONS  
SIL DIVISION  
9 OCTOBER 1995

cc Ms Checksfield  
Miss Patterson, Cent Sec - B  
Mrs Anderson, MOD

MR BROOKER - B  
MR POPE - B  
MR MACCABE - B  
MRS BROWN - B  
MRS SEAR  
MR BEETON

NORTHERN IRELAND : "BULL POINTS"

I attach a copy of the Northern Ireland section of the FCO's latest "Bull Points" document for updating; apparently the September edition did not issue.

2. The FCO circulate this document to posts abroad where its main purpose is to supply Information Officers with an up-to-date quarry for speeches and answers to letters on which they can draw.

3. I should be again be grateful if Miss Patterson could co-ordinate NI Department responses and I would appreciate any comments/amendments you might have on the attached by close of play Wednesday 25 October.

(signed JAG)

MR J A GIBBONS  
SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL DIVISION  
9 OCTOBER 1995

DED - 18.10.95 - NIL

DEN1 - 24.10.95 -

IFI - NIL ✓

CCRU - 24.10.95

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NORTHERN IRELAND BULL POINTS: THEME NUMBER 10

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

- HMG remains firmly committed to seeking a widely acceptable political accommodation which would take account of the three main relationships; those within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the British and Irish Governments.
- HMG believes that the best way forward lies through a process of political dialogue, which addresses all the relevant relationships, is held on a wide agenda, and involves all the main constitutional political parties in NI and the British and Irish Governments. This commitment to dialogue is shared by the Irish Government.
- Talks were held in 1991 and again in November 1992. Strand I involved discussion of the relationships within Northern Ireland. Strand II (the North/South relationship) began in London on 6 July 1992 involved HMG, the four main NI constitutional parties (as in Strand I) and the Irish Government, under the independent chairmanship of Sir Ninian Stephen, a former Governor General of Australia. Strand III (the East/West relationship) began on 28 July 1992 and involved the British and Irish Governments.
- From September 1993 the process continued in the form of private bilateral discussions with three of the four main constitutional parties to explore the basis upon which they might come together for further dialogue. (DUP declined to participate.)
- On 15 December 1993 the British and Irish Governments made the Joint Declaration which complemented and underpinned the political Talks process.



- On 22 February 1995 the "Frameworks for the Future" document was launched. The document outlines what an overall settlement might look like. not a blueprint to be imposed but is intended to stimulate further discussion and negotiation and to assist in the resumption of multilateral dialogue.
- In April 1995 HMG invited the Ulster Unionist Party, Ulster Democratic Unionist Party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Alliance Party to separate bilateral meetings to discuss the issues on which agreement must be found, if a comprehensive settlement is to be achieved. Meetings have already taken place with the Ulster Unionist and Alliance parties. Further meetings are planned.
- The Government is working to achieve all-inclusive Talks, but has made it clear that Sinn Fein cannot expect to participate in substantive talks about a future settlement in Northern Ireland without substantial progress on the decommissioning of illegal arms.
- Happy to discuss political development with loyalists in exploratory discussions. Neither the Ulster Democratic Party or the Progressive Unionist Party currently command an electoral mandate comparable to other parties involved in the Talks process. HMG wants all NI parties to be full participants in a democratic, political and exclusively peaceful process.
- Format of future Talks will be a matter for the participants to determine.

## Referendum

- Any agreement reached between the political parties and the British and Irish Governments will be put to the people of Northern Ireland for approval in a referendum. Also legislation to implement any settlement will require the consent of the Westminster Parliament.

## "Frameworks for the Future"

### i) General

- "Frameworks for the Future" was launched in Belfast by the Prime Minister on 22 February. It contains two sets of proposals; "A Framework for Accountable Government in Northern Ireland" describes the Governments ideas - based on discussions with the Northern Ireland parties - as to how local people could take more control over the way Northern Ireland is governed on a fair and equitable basis. "A New Framework for Agreement" describes a shared understanding - prepared at the request of the Northern Ireland parties - between the British and Irish Governments, as to how relations in the island of Ireland, and between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland; might be based on cooperation and agreement to the mutual advantage of all.
- The purpose of the proposals is to stimulate discussion and negotiation in the Talks; they represent a fair and balanced package.
- The Government want to give the parties and the people time to read and carefully study the proposals. The Government also wants to press on with constructive dialogue as soon



as possible. Nothing will be imposed; the Government is not working on an artificial timetable. The Government is also prepared to look at other documents which address the main issues.

- Format of future talks will be a matter for the talks participants and the Government.

ii) "A Framework For Accountable Government in Northern Ireland"

- The proposals in the accountable government document closely reflects discussions with the four main parties in the 1992 Talks process and subsequent discussions.
- The proposals outline the British Government's understanding of where agreement might be found amongst the political parties and the wider community on new democratic institutions within Northern Ireland;
- identify the characteristics that should underline any such new institutions; and propose and describe in greater detail;
- a single unicameral Assembly of about 90 members elected for a fixed term;
- legislative and executive responsibility over as wide a range of subjects as in 1973;
- elections to the Assembly by a form of proportional representation;
- possibly a separate Panel, perhaps of 3 people elected within Northern Ireland, to compliment the working of the Assembly;

- a system of Assembly Committees, constituted broadly in proportion to party strengths in the Assembly; and
  - a system of detailed checks and balances intended to sustain the confidence of both main parts of the Northern Ireland community in the new institutions.
- iii) "A New Framework for Agreement" (The Joint Framework Document)
- The proposals in the Joint Framework Document reaffirm the guiding principles of self determination; the consent of the governed, exclusively democratic and peaceful means and full respect and protection for the rights and identities of both traditions.
  - They make it clear that there will be no change in Northern Ireland's status as a part of the United Kingdom without the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland; the constitutional guarantee remains. Likewise the proposals do not establish joint authority/sovereignty.
  - It also commits the Irish Government as part of a balanced package, to ask the electorate to change the Irish Constitution so that Articles 2 and 3 will not contain any jurisdictional or territorial claim of legal right on behalf of the Irish state over the territory of Northern Ireland; contrary to the will of its people. A united Ireland could therefore only occur in circumstances where the majority of the people choose to be part of a united Ireland.
  - The proposals also suggest that a new North-South body could carry out a range of consultative, harmonising or



executive functions. It would not have free-standing authority. It would be accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly and to the Irish Parliament respectively. The Northern Ireland members of the Body would be drawn from relevant elected Heads of Department from the Northern Ireland Assembly and would naturally reflect policies determined by the Assembly. This body would not give the Irish Government joint sovereignty over Northern Ireland.

- Decisions in the Body could only be taken where there was agreement North and South. There is no question of a majority out voting a minority which is a critical safeguard for the Assembly and the Irish Parliament.
- The remit of the North-South Body extends across the island of Ireland. It will be able to promote practical cooperation for mutual benefit on both parts of the island. All decisions will require the agreement of the two sides North and South. The Northern Ireland representatives would be accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly, which would itself have a system of checks and balances to ensure that there is no domination by one group or the other.

iv) Summary

- The principle of consent is enshrined throughout all of the proposals contained in "Frameworks for the Future". They are for discussion and negotiation between the parties. The proposals are fair and balanced to both sides of the community.
- The possible comprehensive settlement, set out in both documents together, respects the aspirations of both sides and compromises the principles of neither.

- Any agreement reached between the political parties and the Government will be put to the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum and they in turn will be put before Parliament before they are implemented. This is a triple safeguard - referred to as the triple lock.

#### ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT

- Good relations between UK and Republic of Ireland are in the interests of both sides. Agreement has provided valuable forum both to discuss co-operation and to resolve differences.
- Both countries threatened by violence. Must work together to ensure terrorism can never win. Could not have reached this present hopeful stage in Northern Ireland without unprecedented cooperation between the two Governments.
- While the British and Irish Governments remain fully committed to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, they have made clear that they would be prepared to consider a new and more broadly based agreement or structure if this could be arrived at through direct discussion and negotiation between all of the parties concerned. It would enable both Governments to continue their overall aim which is to foster cooperation reconciliation and agreement in Ireland at all levels.

#### JOINT DECLARATION/EXPLORATORY DIALOGUE

- The Downing Street Declaration, signed in December 1993 is a statement of fundamental principle agreed between the British and Irish Government and has peace democracy and consent as its foundation; it is against violence and



coercion. It charts the way forward for those democratically mandated organisations which are prepared to commit themselves exclusively to the democratic process and turn their backs on violence in line with the wishes of the vast majority of the people of Ireland North and South.

- The Government wants all the main constitutional parties to take part in the process which will lead to a future settlement in Northern Ireland, and wants Sinn Fein to be part of that process once it has demonstrated that it is committed exclusively to democratic methods.

Exploratory dialogue between Government officials and Sinn Fein commenced on 9 December 94, some 100 days after the IRA announced a complete cessation of military operations on 31 August 94.

- The purpose of the dialogue is:
  - i) to explore the basis upon which Sinn Fein would come to be admitted to an inclusive political talks process to which the British Government is committed but without anticipating negotiations within that process;
  - ii) to exchange views on how Sinn Fein would be able over a period to play the same part as the current constitutional parties in the public life of Northern Ireland;
  - iii) to examine the practical consequences of the ending of violence.
- The basis for the dialogue is that there must be a genuine commitment by Sinn Fein to use and support only peaceful methods in a democratic political arena.

- The dialogue is exploratory. There is no negotiation. Cannot anticipate political negotiations in an inclusive Talks process on the future of Northern Ireland.
- The Government's comprehensive opening statement to Sinn Fein, made it clear that exploratory dialogue could start because of the IRA's ceasefire since 31 August. It is the next step on the path set out in the Downing Street Declaration.

#### Exploratory Dialogue - Ministerial involvement

Following intensive exchanges with Sinn Fein Michael Ancram MP, Minister for Political Development at the Northern Ireland Office, attended a meeting of exploratory dialogue on 10 May. The decision for Ministers to enter exploratory dialogue was taken on the understand that, constructive discussion - particularly in achieving substantial progress on the decommissioning of arms - would be facilitated and accelerated by their joining the dialogue.

No subject is excluded from the dialogue. The Government has made it clear that, there will first need to be a substantive discussion, as a separate issue, on decommissioning of arms including an exploration of the specific ways this can best be achieved. The Government will be glad to explain its policy and approach on any subject. Sinn Fein have made clear their wish to raise a number of issues, including those arising from the need for what they term "demilitarisation".

#### Meetings between Secretary of State and Adams

- The meetings were not secret - they were private meetings held at Sinn Fein's request.



- Following ministerial involvement in XD it was announced that requests by Sinn Fein for meetings would be considered on their merits. It would have been irresponsible to refuse.
- The meetings were to explore the way forward in the peace process in the light of recent events and it was agreed in the interests of full and frank exchanges that the meeting would not be publicised.

#### Decommissioning and demilitarisation

- The decommissioning of illegal weapons is a separate issue and should not be artificially linked to the legitimate deployment of the security forces.
- As decommissioning proceeds, it will improve the climate in which operational decisions - which are taken by independent security force commanders - are taken. Decommissioning is also vital for the atmosphere of trust and confidence which is essential if talks are to be viable.
- No one who is wholly committed to democratic non-violent methods needs to hold them; as the Downing Street declaration, for example, made clear, that a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods was required of those who wish to play a full part in political life.

#### Sinn Fein and inclusive dialogue

- There is a distinction to be drawn between Ministerial involvement in exploratory dialogue with Sinn Fein and their involvement in inclusive talks about the future of Northern Ireland. We have said consistently that as a

matter both of principle and political reality - and indeed common sense - Sinn Fein could not be admitted to round table talks involving the main political parties in Northern Ireland unless substantial progress had been made on the decommissioning issue.

Punishment beatings/the disappeared

- Even after IRA and Loyalists ceasefires, horrific punishment beatings using iron bars and baseball bats continue unabated. This sort of vigilante activity is totally unacceptable in a civilised society. AS President Clinton made clear, both Sinn Fein and the Loyalists parties should use their influence to stop this barbaric activity.
- The bodies of a number of the Troubles' victims have never been found. Bereaved families need to know where these bodies are to give them a decent burial and allow proper mourning.

LOYALIST

- The Government welcomes the loyalist ceasefire. There are no circumstances whatsoever that would justify a resumption of their violence. The route to democratic politics is open to all who renounce violence and the Government wants loyalists to be able to express their views democratically.
- The first meeting of exploratory dialogue with the UDP and PUP took place on 15 December.
- Conditions for the talks are the same as those set for Sinn Fein. The commitment to exclusively peaceful methods and the intentions to end violence for good must continue to be demonstrated by all concerned.



- Purpose of exploratory dialogue with the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP) and the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP) is similar to that with Sinn Fein. That is to explore the ways in which they might come to play a full part in the normal political life of Northern Ireland and to explore the practical consequences of the end of violence.
- In response to a letter from British officials, the Loyalists confirmed that they would engage in constructive discussion of the key issues, including the decommissioning of arms, and would join in an exploration of the ways in which this can most effectively be achieved. In the light of these assurances, the NIO Minister, Michael Ancram, joined the meeting of exploratory dialogue with the PUP and the UDP on 22 March and the meetings which have taken place since then.
- The PUP and UDP do not currently have a significant electoral mandate across Northern Ireland for them to be considered as main constitutional parties.
- Although ground rules for the talks process need to be agreed between the parties, participation in the talks process will clearly be related to the level of democratic support a party enjoys; on the basis of its current electoral support, once Sinn Fein has demonstrated that it has abandoned violence permanently it will have a claim to be reckoned as one of the main parties. No other grouping can make a similar claim. However, we will be looking for ways of taking loyalists views into account in the Talks process.

#### DECOMMISSIONING OF ILLEGAL ARMS

- Essential to begin the process of decommissioning arms, both IRA and loyalist. Substantial progress must be made on this before Sinn Fein can be admitted to substantive talks for an overall settlement. Without that progress, the reality is that the Unionists would not sit down with them.
- Government will continue to press to achieve three things:
  - a willingness in principle to disarm progressively;
  - a common practical understanding of the modalities, that is to say, what decommissioning would actually entail; and
  - in order to test the practical arrangements and to demonstrate good faith, the actual decommissioning of some arms as a tangible confidence building and to signal the start of a process.
- Working closely with the Irish Government to draw up joint proposals on decommissioning. Both Governments prepared to be flexible about the mechanics of decommissioning: the priority is to get the process underway.
- Decommissioning is a separate issue from demilitarisation; it should not be artificially linked to the legitimate deployment of the security forces in Northern Ireland.

#### PUNISHMENT BEATINGS/THE DISAPPEARED

- Horrific punishment beatings, by both the IRA and loyalist groups, continue; since the IRA ceasefire there have been



177 victims of punishment attacks. This sort of vigilante activity is barbaric and rejected by all civilised communities.

- This is not "policing" and is against all concepts of justice and human rights. As President Clinton made clear, both Sinn Fein and the loyalist parties should use their influence to stop this barbaric activity.
- The bodies of a number of victims of the troubles have never been found. Bereaved families need to know where the bodies of their loved ones are to give them a decent burial and to allow proper mourning. It is long past time for terrorists to release the details of those who are missing. The Government has pressed Sinn Fein and the loyalist parties on this issue.

#### SECURITY SITUATION

- To date this year 1 person has died as a result of the security situation (Con Jim Seymour who was shot outside Coalisland RUC station on 1973 and had been in hospital since then).
- Trouble which flared in the wake of the release of Pte Lee Clegg was mainly confined to Belfast, with isolated incidents elsewhere in Northern Ireland. In the four days following the release Sinn Fein and the IRA orchestrated a large number of incidents: over 190 vehicles were hijacked and burned; over 400 petrol bombs were thrown and nearly 700 recovered; 69 people were arrested; and 14 police officers were injured. Not possible to put a figure on the cost of the disorder yet, but likely to be several £ million.

## Parades

- Decisions on the routing of parades are an operational matter for the police under the law. In reaching their decisions on the routing of particular parades, the primary concern of the police is to maintain public order and safety. The police cannot however ban parades: this power lies with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.
- Thanks to the RUC the marching season so far has passed off relatively peacefully, despite tensions in Portadown and Belfast in the run-up to the Twelfth of July Orange parades. There are many thousands of parades each year only a few of which carry the potential for conflict; the overwhelming majority pass off peacefully.

## SECURITY RESPONSE TO THE CEASEFIRE

- The Government and the security forces have reacted rapidly and imaginatively to the changed security situation of the ceasefire. As a result it has been possible to:
  - re-open all closed border roads. 98 of the 104 crossing previously closed are now open and the rest are being worked on;
  - relocate around 1,000 troops to their home bases in England and Germany;
  - end routine military patrolling in Greater Belfast and many other urban areas. Throughout Northern Ireland, military support to the RUC is running at 20% of its pre-ceasefire level.



- rescind exclusion order from Northern Ireland, and many of those for whom the Home Secretary is responsible;
- remove 2 border patrol bases and end routine checking of vehicles at the remaining bases;
- open town and city centres which had previously been closed to traffic at night-time and remove most security-related parking restrictions;
- move towards community policing. Where possible, the police now patrol without body armour or long-barrelled weapons, and in cars or on foot, rather than in armoured vehicles.

#### More Troops to be Withdrawn/Further Measures?

- The situation is kept under review. Look to the Police and Army for advice on what further measures can be taken, and when. Fully expect that if the ceasefires continue, there will be further changes.

#### Concessions to Sinn Fein?

- Not so. The measures taken have been a response to the changed security situation, and not concessions to terrorists.

#### The future?

- Firm objective of the Government to return to exclusively civilian policing. The need for soldiers to provide direct support to the RUC will continue to be reviewed as

circumstances permit. Look forward to a time when the Army's role in Northern Ireland will be no different from its role elsewhere in the UK. But cannot drop our guard prematurely.

#### FAIR EMPLOYMENT

- Government is totally committed to the elimination of all forms of unlawful discrimination in employment in Northern Ireland. To this end it introduced the Fair Employment (NI) Act 1989 which is the most radical piece of anti-discrimination legislation ever passed in the United Kingdom, and probably Europe.

Main features of the Act:

- Establishment of Fair Employment Commission (FEC) and Fair Employment Tribunal
- Compulsory registration of employers with the Commission
- Compulsory monitoring of work-forces and applicants
- Compulsory reviews of recruitment, training and promotion practices, at least once every three years
- Affirmative action, goals and timetables as directed by the FEC.
- Outlawing of indirect discrimination (direct discrimination unlawful since 1976)
- Criminal penalties and economic sanctions punish bad practice including loss of government grants and contracts



- Unlimited compensation for victims of discrimination
- Code of Practice on fair employment

#### Subsequent Development

- Continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of the Act.
- An independent review of the effectiveness of the Act being taken forward by the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights (SACHR). The result of the review will be published.

#### Progress

- The Act is working well. Over 4,1000 organisations are registered with the Commission and all those required to submit monitoring returns have done so.
- Many larger employers have introduced or are considering affirmative action measures.
- There has been a small but significant increase in the proportion of Roman Catholics in monitored employment in the period 1990-94.
- 1994 figures show that Roman Catholics account for 37.3% of the workforce (an increase of 2.4 percentage points from 1990) compared with 39% in the economically active population (1991 census).
- The Fair Employment Tribunal offers real redress for victims of discrimination and has made a number of substantial awards of compensation.

### MacBride

- The Principles are unnecessary because of the more wide ranging, precise and stringent requirements of the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act 1989.
- The MacBride Campaign is thought to have discouraged new job-creating investment in Northern Ireland.
- The MacBride Campaign has not created a single job in Northern Ireland.
- The Fair Employment laws are working well, what Northern Ireland needs is more job creating investment which will help achieve fair employment for both communities.

### EDUCATION

- The Government believes that education has a role to play in the process of improving community relations among young people. To this end a number of measures, for which £3.1m has been allocated in the current financial year, are available.
- The Cross-Community Contact Scheme, introduced in October 1987, provides modest grant support to schools, colleges and youth clubs to develop joint, collaborative programmes involving young people from different backgrounds; some 550 schools (over 40% of NI schools) and over 400 youth clubs and other organisations are actively involved.
- The Cultural Traditions programme, introduced in May 1989, seeks to provide opportunities through which young people can explore both their shared cultural heritage and the rich diversity of cultural traditions.



- Support is provided to voluntary sector reconciliation organisations, museums, arts and cultural organisations and a range of other bodies for the development of programmes and projects designed to enhance and complement the opportunities provided through the formal education structures. EC funding, available from 1994, will provide further assistance in developing the range of youth and education community/reconciliation related projects.
- Special curriculum projects developed by the Department, often in conjunction with other education authorities both in Northern Ireland and in other countries including the Irish Republic, seek to widen the horizons of young people and to bring them into contact with other cultures. Typical areas/issues studied include - the environment, history, geography, drama, contemporary European and world affairs.
- The Common Curriculum includes the 2 cross-curricular themes of Education for Mutual Understanding (EMU) and Cultural Heritage and students in compulsory education at all schools must be afforded opportunities, through all programmes of study, to learn about themselves and others, to understand and respect differences, and to resolve conflict by peaceful means.
- When the 1989 Education Reform Order became law, there were just 10 integrated schools in NI, with a combined enrolment of 1,788 pupils. Today there are 23 Grant-Aided schools (including 6 secondary schools), widely distributed throughout the Province, with a total enrolment of over 4,700 (this is around 2% of total pupil numbers). Growth has been steady at the rate of 2 or 3 new schools a year - the current school year (1994-1995) saw the establishment

of 2 new secondary schools, one in Newcastle, Co Down, and one in Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh. Approval has been granted to establish 3 new Secondary Schools and 1 new Primary School from September 1995. An existing controlled school has been given approval to transfer to integrated status from September 1995.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Northern Ireland Community Relations Council

- Established in 1990 to promote community relations work in Northern Ireland;
- Budget in 1995/96 is over £2.3m and the Council has its own grant making capacity;
- Its members (up to 24) are representative of the community.

### District Council Community Relations Programme

- Government provides grant aid for programmes which command cross-political support and encourage cross-community contact, mutual understanding and awareness of cultural diversity;
- All 26 Councils are currently involved in the programme.

### Community Reconciliation Bodies

- Funding is provided to support bodies which promote cross-community contact and the creation of a more tolerant and harmonious community;
- The work of such bodies is an important means of harnessing community energies and promoting a more tolerant society.



### Cultural Traditions Programme

- Aims to encourage greater understanding about different cultural traditions in Northern Ireland;
- It includes support for the Irish Language.

### Capital Programme

- Provides funding for community based facilities which are accessible to the main sections of the community.
- Priority is given to small towns where there has been evidence of sectarian tension.

### Research and Evaluation

- maintain up-to-date information on the nature and effects of community division through research, evaluation, and statistical monitoring;
- evaluate and assess the impact of the Government's policies;
- evaluate the impact and effectiveness of funded projects and bodies.

### EQUALITY AND EQUITY

#### Targeting Social Need (TSN)

- TSN was launched in 1991.

- Economic and social disadvantage persist on both sides of the Northern Ireland community. On all major indicators however, eg unemployment, income, health, overcrowding - Catholics generally do worse than Protestants.
- These differential experiences sustain feelings of discrimination and alienation which in turn influence attitudes to political and security issues.
- Through TSN, Government policies and programmes will be targeted more sharply at the areas and people in greatest need in order to reduce unfair social and economic differentials and promote equality and equity for all sections of the community. This in turn should contribute to healing community divisions.
- Priorities for action are employment and employability.

#### Race Relations

- The Government accepts the principle that protection should be given to those who suffer from discrimination on the grounds of race.
- Following a public consultation process to consider the needs of ethnic minorities and the traditional Irish traveller community, and the scope for legislation to outlaw discrimination on grounds of race, the Government in April 1995 announced its intention to introduce race relations legislation in Northern Ireland as soon as possible.
- The legislation will be along the general lines of the Great Britain Race Relations Act 1976, and will refer to the traditional Irish traveller community.



### Policy Appraisal and Fair Treatment

- Revised Government Guidelines on Policy Appraisal and Fair Treatment (PAFT) come into affect for all Northern Ireland Departments, their Agencies and the Northern Ireland Office, on 1 January 1994.
- The Guidelines aim to ensure that those responsible for the development of policy and delivery of services do not unfairly or unnecessarily discriminate against specified sections of the community.
- Groups which may be covered by the guidelines include people of different gender, age, ethnic group, religious belief or political opinion; married and unmarried people; disabled and non-disabled people; people with or without dependants and people of differing sexual orientation.
- The first annual report on the implementation of PAFT was published on 21 July 1995.

### Employment Equality Review

- During the passage through Parliament of the Fair Employment (NI) Bill, the Government undertook to carry out a comprehensive review of the legislation after 5 years.
- The purpose of the review is to assess the effectiveness of the Fair Employment (NI) Act 1989, and progress towards equality of opportunity and fair participation in employment.
- The independent Standing Advisory Commission for Human Rights (SACHR) has been asked to carry forward the review.

- A review report will be available by 1996.

#### General

- In 1986 almost half of the people in Northern Ireland felt that community relations were getting worse. By 1991 just over one in six held the same view and in 1995, the figure has fallen to one in 25. Moreover, in 1991 40% of Catholics and 29% of Protestants said they expected community relations to improve further in the future. In 1995 these figures have improved so that 59% of Catholics and 43% of Protestants expected further improvement in the future. In 1995 less than 1% of Catholics and 7% of Protestants expect relations to get worse.

#### INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND (IFI)

- The International fund was established in 1986 by the British and Irish Governments in the wake of the Anglo Irish Agreement. It is administered by an independent Board, comprising a Chairman and 6 other Members, jointly appointed by the 2 Governments.
- The Fund's geographical remit covers the 6 counties of Northern Ireland and the 6 Southern border counties of Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim and Louth. The Fund is required to spend approximately 75% of its resources in Northern Ireland.
- In its administration of the Fund the Board is supported by a Secretariat staffed by officials seconded by the two Governments and headed by Joint Directors General based in Belfast and Dublin respectively. In addition Government



departments and public agencies, North and South, acting on behalf of the Fund assist with the day to day administration of the Fund's main programme of work.

- To date the donors to the Fund include the US (US\$250m), the EC (ECU110m), Canada (up to C\$10m) and New Zealand (NZ\$900,000). Recently Australia indicated its intention to contribute A\$7m over 5 years. Further increases in contributions have been pledged by US and EU.
- Up to 30 September 1994 the Fund approved assistance of over £231m to some 3,000 projects and had contributed to the generation of approximately 18,600 full-time jobs - plus a considerable number of part-time and construction jobs.
- The Fund has a particular interest in supporting projects with a cross-border dimension and has had a catalytic role in helping to develop a substantial number of major initiatives. These include a marketing initiative with the two Tourist Boards jointly to market Ireland as a tourist destination overseas and a joint initiative sponsored by the CBI and CCI to develop increased cross-border trade links and business opportunities.
- The Fund has also supported four major flagship projects because of the impact they will have on the economic regeneration of their region. These are the construction of the Erne-Shannon link canal, the development of the Navan Fort research educational and visitor centre, the economic regeneration of the Strabane/Lifford area and pump-priming support for the proposed new University campus at Springvale in West Belfast.
- The Fund has been very successful in leveraging public and private sector investments. This is particularly true in

the Urban Development and Tourism Programmes where the overall leverage factor averages 1:3. The Tourism Programme has played a key role in stimulating very substantial private investment in some of the most disadvantaged areas, North and South, where the tourism industry offers the greatest potential for economic activity and job creation. It is estimated that to date this Programme has helped to generate over 2,500 direct jobs.