

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT ON A NEW  
RELATIONSHIP

- 1 The Territorial claim (Articles 2 and 3). Unambiguous consensus on constitutional issues.
- 2 The absence of institutional structures for contact and co-operation between the two parts of Ireland. (Kernel of Strand II).
- 3 The need to ensure that the outcome of the talks, taken as a whole - internal arrangements for the government of Northern Ireland, a new North/South relationship, future relations between the two Governments - give appropriate expression to the identities of both main traditions, on a basis of parity of esteem.

- (a) Lack of trust ... largely due to an absence of any normal channels of communication
- (b) Articles 2 & 3 of the Irish Republic's constitution ... the territorial claim.
- (c) The perceived dominant influence of the Roman Catholic church in Irish State affairs ... church/state relations.
- (d) The de facto repudiation of the 1925 (Confirmation of Agreement) Act.
- (e) Predisposition of the Irish Republic to use ambiguous language ... eg. Article 1 of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.
- (f) Terrorism and the Rule of law ... perceived attitudes to traditional terror organisations.
- (g) Perceived ambivalence of the Irish Republic in relation to international agreements.
- (h) The hi-jacking of elements of the Irish Cultural Identity by terrorist organisations ... and, indeed the Irish State.
- (i) Expressed lack of willingness by influential SDLP leaders to identify, even on a de facto basis, with Northern Ireland as a political entity.
- (j) Inability of the Irish Government to sign any agreement reached at this table, due to constraints of the Irish Republic's Constitution.