

Tripartite Conference

2. Once an undertaking has been reached on the formation of a Northern Ireland Executive, HMG proposes to invite those persons who will be members of that Executive, together with representatives of the Government of the Republic, to a conference to discuss the matters set out in paragraph 112 of the White Paper. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will also invite the leaders of those parties who have indicated that they are not prepared to participate in an Executive to discuss their views with him so that these will be known at the time of the conference. This conference would prepare the way for the appointment of a Northern Ireland Executive. It will be necessary thereafter to hold a formal conference between HMG, the Government of the Republic and the Northern Ireland Executive on the matters previously discussed and invitations would be issued by HMG to this conference as soon as appropriate.

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Timing

12. The aim would be to hold the consultations on a Council of Ireland in the first week of December. The necessary steps would then be taken to request Parliament at Westminster to approve the order for the devolution of powers to the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly during December and for this to take effect as soon as possible. The formal conference would then take place as soon as appropriate thereafter.