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Title: Letter to Taoiseach from Dr. T.K. Whittaker
[Governor of the Central Bank and former
Secretary, Department of Finance] enclosing a
copy of the paper titled 'The Constitutional
Position of Northern Ireland'

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2001/8/6

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BANC CEANNAIS NA hÉIREANN
CENTRAL BANK OF IRELAND
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
P. O. BOX NO. 61
DUBLIN 2

24 November 1969.

J. Lynch, Esq., T.D.,
An Taoiseach,
Department of An Taoiseach,
Government Buildings,
Dublin 2.

Dear Taoiseach,

Further to my letter of 27 October, I now enclose a copy of the paper on The Constitutional Position of Northern Ireland as revised by Maher, Murphy and myself. Part IV outlines our ideas on a possible constitutional setting for an acceptable form of re-unification.

Maher will be sending the paper up the line in Finance i.e. to his Secretary and Minister, with an indication that I took part in its preparation.

I hope the document will be of some use.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Whitaker

2001/8/6
(2)CONFIDENTIALThe Constitutional Position of Northern IrelandIntroduction

This is the second of a number of studies on aspects of administration in Northern Ireland.

The subject of study here, namely the constitutional position of Northern Ireland, is probably the most fundamental of ^{the} studies in that the relevance of all the others arises only if satisfactory answers are available in this sphere. At the same time, it is not possible to be as precise in this area as in others mainly because of the political nature of the subject itself. It is possible, nevertheless, to identify the main problems and to examine possible developments which might alleviate them.

The terms of reference were to study the constitutional position without attempting to propose solutions. This has been interpreted as not precluding a review of policies and an examination of how policy may or should develop in the future.

The approach adopted is as follows: Part I gives a historical development of the present position, Part II examines the pro-partition views, the legal justification and the practical reasons for these views. Part III puts the anti-partition case and reviews past policy and the development of the present policy. Part IV goes on to examine how the views may be expected to evolve and whether there is scope for common meeting ground between North and South.