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THE POSSIBLE FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURES OF A  
COUNCIL OF IRELAND

- 1) That the Council be generally centred around a model with two principal institutions, viz.
  - a Ministerial-Executive body which would be the highest decision-making institution;
  - a Consultative Assembly involving elected representatives from North and South.
  
- 2) That these bodies will be served by a secretariat.
  
- 3) That the Ministerial-level body should have the following features:-
  - equal representation from North and South;
  - membership varying according to agenda before the Council;
  - members nominated by Northern and Southern administrations;
  - operating, initially at least, on basis of unanimity;
  - chairmanship rotating between North and South from meeting to meeting;
  - individual members of Council would not be assigned separate "Ministerial portfolios" in relation to Council's various activities;
  - meet at least monthly, alternately in Northern Ireland and the Republic.
  
- 4) That that Council might have three possible roles, viz.
  - exclusive executive authority on all-Ireland basis for certain defined functions;

- a harmonising role in relation to functions retained by Northern and Southern administrations;
  - a general consultative role.
- 5) That the Parliamentary body should have the following features:
- representation on a proportional basis from Dáil and Northern Assembly, with a total membership of about 60;
  - members to be nominated by Parliament and Assembly, not elected, at any rate in the first instance;
  - have advisory and review, and such decision-making powers as may be agreed;
  - members to be paid.
- 6) That the Consultative Assembly would have the power to make decisions, on the basis of an agreed majority, about the future evolution of the Council.
- 7) That the Secretariat should have the following features:
- permanent and full-time staff, headed by a Secretary-General with powers of initiative;
  - its staff to be employed by and directly responsible to the Council.
- 8) That the Council should have a role in the area of policing provided that this function in relation to Northern Ireland is devolved to it by the British Government.
- 9) That under the auspices of the Council of Ireland a common Code of Human Rights be operated by a Court of Human Rights and a common Court system for certain offences be established.
- 10) That the Council enjoy a degree of financial responsibility and that the possibility of its having its own resources be considered.