



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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Working For Reconciliation in Northern Ireland

The Progressive Democrats are firmly committed to working for peace and reconciliation among the divided communities in Northern Ireland. We believe that the coming together of people in some new form of government and administration calls for an open and generous spirit on the part of all. True unity in a community must be built on the consent of the people, not imposed by violence and intimidation.

The Progressive Democrats support the Anglo-Irish Agreement because it represents a recognition by both the British and Irish governments of the need to work for the creation of new structures of administration.

The Progressive Democrats also believe that the practical work of building stronger ties of friendship and understanding between North and South should be promoted in areas such as education, cooperation in social services, development of trading and other economic links, as well as in the fields of culture and sport.

Playing A Role In The World.

Recent events have seen much questioning of Ireland's role in the EEC, in the UN and in aid to developing countries. The Progressive Democrats are committed to a forward looking view of Ireland's place in the international community, and are committed to maintaining our policy of neutrality.

We are also committed to our membership of the EEC. We support its fundamental aims of working for a closer union of the European peoples.

We also believe that our membership of the EEC enables us to exercise a degree of influence on the shape of policy adopted by the other member states. We recognise that membership will continue to give rise to issues on which the interests of the member states diverge, but the experience of the Community to date has demonstrated its capacity to resolve differences by negotiation.

We also support a policy of Ireland playing an active role in UN affairs. We favour converting many of our Embassies abroad into trade and promotional centres, in line with an Ireland House concept.

The Progressive Democrats also favour providing maximum help for the development efforts of Third World countries. We favour strengthening the links between voluntary and official aid programmes, so that we not only maintain the excellent reputation which Ireland has already achieved but enhance it in the years ahead.