

Secretary of State

AN INTEGRATION SOLUTION

1. When submitting our earlier paper entitled "A Devolutionary Solution" I indicated that Northern Ireland Permanent Secretaries under the general umbrella of the Future Policy Group were also working on a paper on the integration approach.
2. The attached paper is the outcome of a number of discussions and, as with the paper on devolution, not all our members supported in full each of the detailed suggestions. I have also cut short some of the enquiries which some members would have liked to pursue. I did this because I thought that it was more important to produce a paper quickly.
3. We have considered integration in the context of existing arrangements in the United Kingdom and have not tried to anticipate the recommendations of the Kilbrandon (formerly Crowther) Commission or the reaction of the UK Government to them. Our proposal for a Scottish Convention on the general lines suggested by the Douglas-Home Committee might well be affected by the findings of the Kilbrandon Commission in relation either to Scotland or to regional government generally.
4. We are at present at work on the draft of a paper on what we call "The Irish Dimension". This recognises that the Northern Ireland problem has an "external" as well as an "internal" character and that any real solution must take account of both.



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