

E.R.

MR CHESTERTON



2 Sec 4/2 .

cc PS/PUS (L&B) 2/f
1. ✓ PS/Mr Bloomfield
NI Perm Secs
Mr Burns
Mr A W Stephens
Mr Elliott
Mr Innes
Mr Spence
Mr Bell
Mr Blackwell
Mr Cowling
Mr N Hamilton
Mr G Hewitt
Mr Jackson
Mr S Hewitt
Mr McConnell
Mr Wood
Miss Jackson

GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTOES

1. I attach for information copies of the sections in the main G B political party manifestoes relating specifically to Northern Ireland.

2. I understand that Central Secretariat, who will be receiving copies of the manifestoes, will be circulating to Northern Ireland Departments any statements on UK policy which are likely to be of departmental interest.

D. C. Kirk

D C KIRK

CPL

19 May 1987

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"NORTHERN IRELAND"
IN
CONSERVATIVE PARTY MANIFESTO
1987

NORTHERN IRELAND

The British people have shown their commitment to the people of Northern Ireland in the common fight against terrorism, and in helping improve the economic and social situation in the Province. We resolutely support the security forces in their outstanding service to the whole community.

We are determined that terrorism will not succeed; that the vital principles of democracy will be upheld; and

that the people of Northern Ireland themselves should determine their constitutional position.

We will maintain, against Socialist opposition, for as long as is necessary the special powers which the police need throughout the UK to prevent terrorism and bring terrorists to justice.

There will be no change in the present status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom unless the people of Northern Ireland so wish it.

That is at the heart of the Anglo-Irish Agreement which was signed with the Republic of Ireland in 1985. The Agreement offers reassurance to both sides of the community that their identities and interests will be respected, and that any change in the status of Northern Ireland would only come about with the consent of a majority of the people of the Province. It commits both governments to work together in the fight against terrorism.

We will continue to work within the Province for a devolved government in which both communities can have confidence and will feel able to participate.

" NORTHERN IRELAND "
IN
LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO
1987

NORTHERN IRELAND

Labour's policies for economic renewal are essential to combat the record unemployment and social deprivation in Northern Ireland and to encourage the economic security which is fundamental to the development of harmony and trust in the community.

We believe in a united Ireland: to be achieved peacefully, democratically, and by consent. We consequently support the Anglo-Irish Agreement and its commitment that there should be no change in the constitutional position of Northern Ireland without the consent of the majority of the people who live there. No group or party will be allowed to exercise a veto on political development, or on policies designed to win consent.

We will combat para-military violence from wherever it comes. We will promote discussions aimed at encouraging mutual confidence and eliminating conflict whilst ensuring that the respective identities and basic rights of both communities will be protected. We will replace present strip-searching practice with more effective and acceptable security measures.

Support the
Anglo-Irish
Agreement

" NORTHERN IRELAND "
IN
LIBERAL / SDP ALLIANCE MANIFESTO
1987

Northern Ireland

We intend to secure progress towards a peaceful and secure life for the people of Northern Ireland. That depends on the acceptance of three fundamental principles;

- ◆ Rejection of violence;
- ◆ Recognition that both Unionist and Nationalist traditions have their legitimate place;
- ◆ Acceptance that Northern Ireland should not cease to be a part of the UK unless a majority of the people of Northern Ireland so wish.

The government of Northern Ireland must be based on a partnership between the two traditions. The Alliance welcomes the Anglo-Irish agreement as a genuine attempt to achieve the objectives we set out. We wish to see a UK/Irish Parliamentary Council, and a devolved assembly where responsibilities and power will be shared. We would improve arrangements for considering Northern Ireland legislation at Westminster.

Our commitment to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law will strengthen

individual rights in Northern Ireland and we would reform the Diplock courts so that three judges preside over non-jury trials; in this and other respects we believe that the passing of identical anti-terrorist measures in Northern Ireland and the Republic can increase the authority those measures carry in a divided community. We also support the establishment of a joint security commission.

We would encourage the participation of people from the minority tradition in the RUC and believe that a totally independent police complaints procedure should be established. We would introduce the 110-day limit on the time in which a prisoner may be held in custody before appearing in court, as we propose for England and Wales.

We would encourage those who are working for reconciliation in Northern Ireland and who are seeking to eliminate sectarianism and discrimination in religious life, education, housing and politics.

We believe that the membership of the EEC offers not only practical help to Northern Ireland, but also prospects for the long-term development of a confederal relationship between UK and the Republic of Ireland which could offer a solution to a problem which has claimed over 2,500 lives in the last 18 years.