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SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

The Rt Hon J H Molyneux JP, MP
Ulster Unionist Party
3 Glengall Street
Belfast BT12 5AE

4 May 1990

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter of 3 May, in response to mine of 30 April. I have no difficulty in giving you the assurance you seek.

It is I believe common ground among all those involved that discussions about future arrangements for the government of Northern Ireland would need to embrace both the concept of devolution and the relationship between any new Northern Ireland administration and the Republic, and that they should encompass the wider relationship between the two islands. Indeed, you have shown us a proposal which aims both to define a basis for future relations with the Republic and to effect progress towards a system of devolution in the Province that will enjoy widespread consent throughout the community. In the context of such discussions of possible future arrangements for the government of Northern Ireland, we would give serious consideration to any implications for the Agreement which such arrangements might have. I confirm that in the context of these discussions we would also consider any proposal (including any proposal for an alternative to the Agreement) you or other parties might put forward which would advance the underlying objectives I believe we all share.

As your letter sought a public declaration I am releasing this letter to the press. I now look forward to our meeting.

I am writing in identical terms to Ian Paisley.

[Handwritten signature]
P. Brooke
PB