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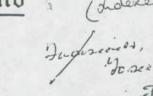
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The Presbyterian Church in Ireland





The Clerk and General Secretary

The Government Committee passed the following resolution at their meeting on Friday evening, 15th November and I have been asked to send a copy to you.

"The Government Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, having made an initial study of the Anglo-Irish Agreement, 1985, recognise that an end to violence is to be greatly sought, and that peace is earnestly desired by the vast majority of the people of Morthern Ireland. Whether this Agreement will, in fact, achieve this end may be open to question. The Committee likewise recognise that security is a prime issue in the community and the defeat of terrorism is an immediate priority.

"They state that the aims of the Agreement, in spite of affirmations by Her Majesty's Government to the contrary, do erode the sovereignty of the Westminster Parliament in this part of the United Kingdom. As a Church which believes that their members have an inalienable right to be involved in their own Government, they affirm that in matters of such constitutional magnitude, an imposed Agreement, imposed without consultation with and the support of the majority in Northern Ireland is wrong and a denial of fundamental democratic rights. They greatly desire improved relations with their Roman Catholic neighbours and their willing involvement in the democratic process, but believe that this Agreement will lead to a consolidation of previously expressed fear and apprehension of interference by the Government of the Republic in the constitutional affairs of the United Kingdom.

"Although many will view the Agreement with justifiable misgiving, the Committee earnestly appeal to the people in our community to study the document with care. They should remain calm and act as responsible citizens within the law, avoiding violence or the threat of violence, in the critical days alcad.

"In particular as a Church they call upon our people, North and South, prayerfully to seek God's will and guidance for our land and people in the days ahead."

CHURCH HOUSE, RELFAST, BT1 6DW

18th Movember, 1935