

## **DT020 - Mo Mowlem admonished**

Mo Mowlem says (23 July 1997) that after completion next year of the so-called 'peace process' there will be no change in the status of Northern Ireland unless the majority of the people there say they want it. That decision, she says, will be taken by a referendum.

But we all know what the result would be if a referendum were held in Northern Ireland tomorrow, asking under existing powers if the voters wished the province to remain part of the United Kingdom *on the present basis*. There would be a 'yes' vote by a considerable majority, comprising Protestants and some Catholics.

Why is that not a valid course for the Government to take? Why is a referendum held next year to be treated as more effective and valid than one held tomorrow?

Mo Mowlem says the recent restoration of the IRA ceasefire represents a new opportunity for peace. For 'peace' read cessation of treasonable murder and mayhem in a part of our country. This is cloud-cuckoo land.

Must we go on conducting our vital affairs with weasel words and stubborn refusal to face facts?

I say to Mo Mowlem: get real and maintain the status quo desired by the majority. Really maintain it, with force and determination. Defend our country.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Last paragraph omitted