GOVERNMENTS AGREE PLAN

Poll signals backing for new assembly

A BREAATHRUROUGH occurred at the talks today when the British and Irish governments reached agreement on a proposal to devolve the negotiations forward.

The deal followed a flurry of diplomatic activity over the weekend among politicians from both sides of the Irish border and the Republic.

Details of what is in the Government's plan was to be presented at the talks today or tomorrow.

By Peter Morrison

A secret agreement to back the new assembly in Ireland was agreed yesterday between the two governments.

The deal was sealed in a meeting of political leaders from both sides of the Irish border.

The agreement means that the British and Irish governments will work together to put forward a new assembly for the Irish border region.

The agreement follows months of talks between the two governments and the political parties in Ireland.

The new assembly would have the power to make decisions on a range of issues, including education, health and social services.

The agreement comes as the UK and Ireland prepare to mark the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which brought an end to the conflict in Northern Ireland.

The deal was welcomed by politicians and leaders across the UK and Ireland.

"This is a significant step forward," said the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party.

"It shows that the two governments are committed to finding a solution to the Irish border issue.

"We look forward to working with the other political parties in Ireland to put forward a new assembly."