

DT010 - More on Ulster integration

You report (8 September 1990) Mr Peter Brooke as saying that if agreement on new constitutional arrangements for Northern Ireland cannot be reached, he will 'impose' a settlement. It is difficult to believe that Mr Brooke, a modest man aware of his limitations, really uttered this Napoleonic threat. The constitutional future of Northern Ireland will be decided not by Mr Brooke but by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, of which Northern Ireland is a constituent part. In putting his proposals to Parliament, Mr Brooke should pay heed to the view of his fellow Conservatives in Ulster that the temporary system of direct rule which has prevailed since 1972 should with modifications be put on a permanent footing and the region governed like Scotland.