



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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Handwritten notes:
 cc Mr. D. Nally A/T. 005
 Mr. J. G. ...
 Mr. ...
 Mr. ...
 Mr. ...

URGENT

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22/7

Tuesday, 21 July 1992

TO: HQ FROM: BELFAST Pages: 3
FOR: Pat Hennessy FROM: Dorr

(Please copy to Secretary Nally)

Talks - Summary Report, Tuesday 21 July 1991

Business Committee

- Sean O hUiginn and I attended a Business Committee meeting in Stormont this afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m.

Confidentiality

- We had a lengthy and somewhat inconclusive discussion. We and the SDLP expressed very serious concern about the leaks especially that to The Sunday Times of 19 July and we indicated that our Ministers would wish to raise in Plenary tomorrow. All other delegations and Chairman joined in deploring the leaks and disclaiming responsibility but no effective ideas emerged as to how it could be halted.
- Chairman is prepared for a discussion in Plenary but hopes it will be short. He envisages agreement on a possible statement by him to the media which would not attack the media but would indicate that the information which emerges through such leaks is flawed and often incorrect. He will circulate a draft.

Recess

- After considerable discussion it was agreed to recommend to Plenary that it recess after completion of business this week and resume with a Business Committee on 1 September and a Plenary on 2 September.
- The following in more detail are the arrangements proposed in this regard:-
 - Strand 2 would recess this week after completion of the present phase (Questions and Responses).
 - Before adjourning it would invite papers from delegations. These would focus on Item 6 ("fundamental aspects of the problem: underlying realities; identity; allegiance; constitutional")
 - The papers would be somewhat more concrete than opening presentations or response. They would also

outline what each delegation considers to be the main issues to be negotiated and suggest how they might be grouped and handled.

- (d) Each delegation would submit its paper to the Chairman by noon on Friday 28 August. The Chairman would immediately copy each paper received to the two Business Committee members of each delegation.
- (e) The business Committee would meet on Tuesday 1 September (31 August is a Bank Holiday in Britain and NI) and review the papers in a preliminary way in preparation for a Plenary meeting beginning Wednesday 2 September.
- (f) Plenary on 2 September (in what may be a short session) would receive a brief report from the Business Committee and would constitute a Committee with a mandate to consider the papers and report back within a specified time.
- (g) The Committee would be limited to say 3 delegates per delegation. It is envisaged that the delegates would be in a position to speak with authority. Rotation would be possible and a certain number of other members of each delegation could be in the general precincts.

(Note: The above is my own summary. Chairman will prepare a text which may differ in wording but will be the same in substance.)

Strand 3 meeting in Dublin in week beginning 27 July

- 5. It was accepted that the two Governments would be holding this meeting. The issue was not discussed.

Strand 2 meeting in Dublin in September

- 6. All delegations accepted this in principle but it was noted that the MEPs (Paisley, Nicholson and Hume) feel they have to attend European Parliament in Strasbourg in week beginning 14 September and could therefore not be in Dublin. We proposed week beginning 7 September but several delegations said that Strand 2 work might be proceeding in Committee rather than in Plenary at that point and it would be artificial to summon a special Plenary simply in order to meet in Dublin. SDLP then proposed week beginning 21 September.
- 7. Eventually the following emerged as a basis for compromise

"as agreed last year, there should be a substantive meeting of Strand 2 in Dublin to be held in the week beginning 21 September".

The word "substantive" is used to cover the point that it is not absolutely predictable that meetings that week will be in Plenary formation. Robinson (UDUP) however said his preference would be for a three day Plenary meeting in Dublin.

- 8. The two Unionist delegations seemed willing to accept this wording but then put down a reserve to allow them to report back to their leaders. We said we would refer this proposal to our Ministers to see if they could agree to accept it.

Eating arrangements at Stormont

- 9. The four NI party delegations criticised the standard of food and other aspects. British delegation noted their comments. We maintained a tactful silence.

We have them spoiled!

No 'hoopers' à la berry Fitt?

*uh
w/c, w*