

NOTE FOR THE RECORDCHAIRMAN'S MEETING WITH THE UUUC AND SDLP NEGOTIATING TEAMS
4.0 PM, 28 AUGUST 1975 (THURSDAY)

PRESENT:	Chairman	Mr Craig	Mr Currie
	Private Secretary	Captain Ardill	Mr Devlin
		Mr Beattie	Mr Hume

1. Mr Craig opened by saying that the teams were in some difficulty since, having exchanged papers and discussed each other's solutions, they still found an irreconcilable difference in principle. They were, however, interested in paragraph 8(iii) of the UUUC paper and possibly in an American style government in relation to which, however, the same problem of power sharing could arise in a different way. They would be grateful if the Chairman and his staff could assist the teams separately and probably also jointly in finding a way of reconciling one of these ideas with the expressed positions of the parties.
2. The other members present endorsed Mr Craig's statement as accurate and helpful.
3. The Chairman thanked the teams for making this approach and expressed the view that they were most deserving of the thanks of every one and, even if their efforts so far had not led to ultimate success, congratulations for bringing the discussion with goodwill as far as they had been able. He accepted the task which the parties wished him to undertake and said that he had been working with the staff already to find the sort of answer which might possibly prove acceptable to the parties without sacrifice of principle or loss of confidence by the electors. He strongly advocated continuance of inter-party dialogue in spite of the difficulties which had been frankly acknowledged to exist and welcomed the chance to discuss the situation separately and jointly with the teams. Since his talks with the teams would now be concerned with finding solutions and not only with receiving reports he thought that it would be better to include his staff and from time to time other officers such as Mr Blackburn in the discussions as a general rule. This was cordially agreed.
4. The Chairman also emphasised the value of communicating more details of the parties' proposals, even if only to the Chairman in the first place.
5. It was arranged that the UUUC team would call on the Chairman at 11.30 am on Friday and the SDLP team at 3.30 pm.

ROBERT LOWRY