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10 JUN 1991

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Vol 2

FROM: D BROOKER  
TALKS SECRETARIAT  
7 JUNE 1991

- 1. Opening Statement by the Secretary of State  
cc. PS/SofS (L&B) - B  
PS/MofS (L&B) - B
- 2. Presentation by the Alliance Party  
PS/PUS (L&B) - B  
PS/Mr Bell - B  
Mr Pilling - B  
Mr Thomas - B
- 3. Presentation by the SDLP  
Mr Alston - B  
Mr Wood (L&B) - B
- 4. Presentation by the DUP  
Mr Cooke - B  
Mr Dodds - B  
Mr McNeill - B
- 5. Presentation by the UUP  
Mr Archer, RID, FCO - B  
Mr Gowan, Cabinet Office - B  
HMA Dublin - B  
Mr Rodell - B  
Mr Barbour - B

MR D J R HILL

*C. M. H. [Signature]* 11/6

**POLITICAL TALKS: WORKING DOCUMENTS**

As they have passed through so many different drafts over the past week or so, copy recipients may find it helpful to have final versions of the various papers that were agreed earlier this week between the two Governments and the four Northern Ireland parties. Copies are therefore enclosed of the following documents -

The Workplan for strand one

The procedural guidelines for the conduct of strand two

A note on the Chairman's staff in strand two and

The Secretary of State's letter of 5 June to the Unionist Leaders on the ambit of the strand two discussions.

Signed:

D BROOKER  
Talks Secretariat  
7 June 1991

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## WORKPLAN FOR STRAND ONE

1. Opening Statement by the Secretary of State.
2. Presentation by the Alliance Party.
3. Presentation by the SDLP.
4. Presentation by the UDUP.
5. Presentation by the UUP.
6. These presentations should be by written statements to which parties can speak and on which they can be questioned. It is envisaged that in the resulting discussion the general principles and perceived political realities and requirements will be comprehensively aired. From this it is expected that common themes will emerge which will form the basis for further discussions.
7. At this stage it will be necessary to consider the institutional implications of these discussions and to address specific proposals which may be tabled by any of the participants. Issues to which specific proposals may be addressed are likely to include those in the attached Schedule.
8. Elements of this workplan may need to be adjusted in the light of the discussions which may suggest new issues or approaches.

This list is not comprehensive; other issues may emerge in discussion.

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## SCHEDULE TO WORKPLAN FOR STRAND ONE

Specific issues are likely to include:

Role of Chairman

- (i) the constitutional position of Northern Ireland
- (ii) relationships within the Northern Ireland community
- (iii) the nature of all institutional arrangements and institutions for and within Northern Ireland
- (iv) the relationship between any institutions within Northern Ireland and the Secretary of State and the UK Government and Parliamentary system
- (v) the role of the UK Government and Parliament in respect of matters which are not brought within the responsibilities of institutions within Northern Ireland (including legislative procedures at Westminster)
- (vi) the relationship, if any, between any institutions within Northern Ireland and the European Community
- (vii) the arrangements for the protection of individual and community rights
- (viii) arrangements for validating the outcome of the talks process as a whole insofar as the issues for discussions in strand one are concerned.

This list is not comprehensive; other issues may emerge in discussion.

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(4 June 1991, 1745)

Procedural Guidelines for the Conduct of Strand Two\*Role of Chairman

1. The independent Chairman will preside over all meetings of Strand Two. He/she will exercise his/her functions in an impartial and even-handed manner.
2. The Chairman will be responsible for the orderly conduct of business. He/she will conduct the proceedings so as to allow an opportunity for full discussion of the issues and will be guided by the objective that the outcome should be agreed by all participating Delegations. To this end, but only after consultation with the Delegations to establish that it would be regarded as helpful, the Chairman may bring forward specific suggestions.
3. The Chairman will consult with participating Delegations in the exercise of his/her functions. A Business Committee will be formed to facilitate such consultation.
4. The Business Committee will comprise the Chairman him/herself and a designated member of each of the participating Delegations. The Committee will be available to advise the Chairman on the day-to-day exercise of his/her responsibilities and to facilitate communication between the participating Delegations and the Chairman. It is envisaged that the Committee will normally meet on days when talks are taking place.

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\*Note: for the purpose of this document, the term "participating Delegations" refers to the two Governments and the four Northern Ireland parties: Alliance, SDLP, UDUP, UUP.

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5. In discharging his/her functions, the Chairman will confine his/her consultations to the Delegations participating in Strand Two. Any written submissions which may be received from other groups or individuals will have no status.
6. For the duration of the process the Chairman will not be expected to make any public comment. However, should the need arise he/she will wish to seek the approval of the heads of participating Delegations before doing so.

Conduct of Proceedings

7. The proceedings of Strand Two will be held in private.
8. The Chairman will have responsibility for the convening, postponement and adjournment of meetings, in consultation, as he/she considers appropriate, with participating Delegations. It is understood, however, that any Delegation may request an adjournment of up to 10 minutes at a time and the Chairman shall only refuse such requests if they are made with unreasonable frequency.
9. The agenda for each day's business shall be determined by the Chairman after considering advice from the Business Committee.
10. In addition to the meetings in London and Dublin, other substantive meetings of Strand Two will also take place in plenary session at Parliament Buildings, Belfast.
11. In addition to the regular plenary meetings the Chairman may, with the agreement of Delegations, propose more limited meetings at which all Delegations would be represented. He/she may also at any time ask some or any of the participating Delegations to meet with him/her; and he/she will accede to any reasonable request for a meeting with him/her from any Delegation.

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12. All remarks shall be addressed through the Chairman. Time limits on interventions may be imposed at the Chairman's discretion.
13. The Chairman's ruling on all individual questions of procedure and order shall be final.
14. A record of the proceedings of Strand Two will be maintained under the general direction of the Chairman and circulated to Delegations participating in the meeting. Approval of the records of meetings involving all Delegations will be a matter for the Business Committee.
15. Changes and additions to these rules of procedure shall be made only with the agreement of all participating Delegations. Inter-relationship of Strand Two with Strands One and Three
16. It is accepted by all participating Delegations that nothing will be finally agreed in any strand until everything is agreed in the talks as a whole.

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## STAFF IN STRAND TWO

The independent Chairman of strand two will have a personal Private Office staff but he will not have a high-powered Secretariat for the purpose of writing papers on the substance of the talks.

2. There will be a small team responsible for taking a record of strand two meetings. It will be staffed by civil servants selected by the Chairman from nominations put forward by the two governments involved in strand two. The team will work under the direction of the Chairman who will be able to seek advice from the Business Committee on the exercise of this as well as his other responsibilities.

3. In the case of plenary meetings and sub-plenary meetings involving all delegations, the note-taking team will prepare and circulate a record. In the case of meetings between the Chairman and one or some delegations, the delegations concerned will be able to choose between not having a record of the meeting, having a record prepared by the Chairman's Private Office and having a record prepared by a member of the note-taking team selected by the Chairman after consultation with the delegation(s) concerned.

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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE 2 UNIONIST LEADERS

5 June 1991

You asked me to confirm that the words in my statement of 26 March that "it will be open to each of the parties to raise any aspect of these relationships, including constitutional issues, or any other matter which it considers relevant" apply to Strand Two as well as Strand One. This I readily do.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Irish Government, who concur with its substance. I am also sending copies to John Hume and John Alderdice.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Peter Brooke*

- Mr. [unclear]*
- Mr. [unclear]*
- Mr. [unclear]*
- Mr. [unclear]*
- Mr. [unclear]*
- Mr. [unclear]*
- Mr. [unclear]*
- Mr. [unclear]*
- Mr. [unclear]*
- Mr. [unclear]*

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Northern Ireland Office  
Stormont Castle  
Belfast BT4 3ST

UNDER/ SEC 195/6  
-7 JUN 1991  
CENT SEC

5 June 1991

The Rt Hon J Molyneaux MP  
& Rev Dr I R K Paisley MP MEP  
Parliament Buildings

Dear Ian and Jim,

7/6  
w Mrs Hanford

You asked me to confirm that the words in my statement of 26 March that "it will be open to each of the parties to raise any aspect of these relationships, including constitutional issues, or any other matter which it considers relevant" apply to Strand Two as well as Strand One. This I readily do.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Irish Government, who concur with its substance. I am also sending copies to John Hume and John Alderdice.

Talks Secretariat  
0232 763210 Ext 2574

Yours sincerely  
Pete Brooke

UCC:

- PS/loss (B+L)
- PS/PUS (B+L)
- PS/Mr Fell
- Mr Pilling
- Mr Thomas
- Mr Alston
- Mr DJR Hill
- Mr Cooke
- Mr McNeill
- Mr Pope

PB