

BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING: 5 MAY 1992

Government Team

Mr Hanley  
Mr Bell  
Mr Hill

Alliance Party

Mr Close  
Mr Morrow

UDUP

Mr Robinson  
Mr Vitty

Talks Secretariat

Mr Smith

SDLP

Mr Farren  
Mr Haughey

UUP

Mr Cunningham  
Mr Empey

Also Present

Mr Smyth

The meeting began at 11.40 and concluded at 12.00.

2. The Government Team suggested that the afternoon Plenary might discuss the second part of the paper "Options for New Political Institutions" dealing with "the Institutional Framework".

3. The SDLP delegation mentioned the paper titled "Agreeing the Nature of Problem" which had been tabled during the morning Plenary Session. They said it would be helpful to them if this paper were to be considered and discussed before moving on to the second part of the "Options" paper. The DUP delegation expressed concern that parties should not be required to discuss papers in Plenary before they could be properly evaluated by party delegations. They were not in a position to discuss how they might respond to the SDLP paper as they had not seen it yet.

4. Several possibilities were discussed for timetabling papers for Plenary discussion, and it was agreed to recommend to the leaders' meeting planned for 12 noon that:

- (a) the Plenary should not reconvene until after lunch at 2.30;
- (b) the Talks Secretariat should draft a paper entitled "Common Principles", which would draw together the main points of agreement from the Plenary discussion on underlying principles in the morning session, and circulate it by 2.00 pm;

- (c) this paper should be discussed in the afternoon Plenary Session; and
- (d) a "second reading" level debate on the second part of the "Options" paper should take place, as previously agreed, on Thursday 7 May.

5. The Talks Secretariat also agreed to circulate the SDLP paper as soon as possible to enable the other parties to begin to prepare their responses, which could then be expected to inform their contributions to Thursday's discussions.

TALKS SECRETARIAT