

**SUMMARY RECORD OF OPENING PLENARY SESSION -
WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 1997 (17.40)**

Those present:

INDEPENDENT CHAIRMEN	GOVERNMENT TEAMS	PARTIES
Mr Holkeri General de Chastelain	British Government Irish Government	Alliance Labour Northern Ireland Women's Coalition Progressive Unionist Party Sinn Féin Social Democratic & Labour Party Ulster Democratic Party Ulster Unionist Party

1. The Chairman (Mr Holkeri) convened the meeting at 17.40 and said that he had been advised by the two Governments that some further time was needed to complete work on the procedural motion. He suggested that Plenary be adjourned to the call of the Chair later that evening. The British Government said that the two Governments regretted that delegations had been waiting for a long time, but said it intended to table the procedural motion that evening.

2. Sinn Fein asked if delegations could have some indication of when the Plenary might reconvene. Some delegations were outside putting their spin to the media while others did not know what was going on. Alliance said that the process was supposed to be an inclusive one, but some of the participants were being given no information as to what was going on. It would be helpful to know who and what was holding matters up.

3. The British Government proposed that the Chairman contact the parties at 19.00 to indicate when the meeting might reconvene. It would also do its best, in the interim, to clarify the ongoing position with the procedural motion for those who required this. The PUP asked that participants also be told if agreement appeared unlikely. Alliance expressed considerable frustration at the

sequence of deadlines missed and apologies made, and at the lack of effort to keep the participants aware of what was going on while they were waiting.

4. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 17.50 to the call of the Chair, and promised to advise parties by 19.00 of the prospects for reconvening.

**Independent Chairmen Notetakers
29 September 1997**

ps85/OIC