

BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING: 9 MARCH 1992

<u>Government Team</u>	<u>Alliance</u>	<u>UDUP</u>
Minister of State Mr Thomas Mr Bell	Mr Morrow Mr Neeson	Mr Robinson Mr Vitty
<u>Talks Secretariat</u>	<u>SDLP</u>	<u>UUP</u>
Mr May	Mr Farren Mr Haughey	Mr Cunningham Mr Empey

The meeting began at 16.15 and concluded at 16.35.

2. The Government team opened by asking the party delegations to confirm that whilst Strand One discussions would normally take place in Belfast, when mutually convenient they might be moved to London. There was no objection in principle to this flexibility.
3. The delegations also agreed that the format of the previous talks with three people at the table and four behind for plenary sessions would be retained and that the normal working week would run from Monday to Wednesday, although flexibility to go beyond that was available if the delegations agreed it would be useful.
4. The Government team asked whether the delegations would be prepared to work on to the middle of August if a gap of that length could be agreed by the two Governments. The SDLP delegation said this should be a last resort as delegates would need a holiday by July, but all delegations agreed that the talks could proceed into August if required. The delegations also agreed that, if the two Governments found it acceptable, the four delegations could agree to ask for the IGC following the gap to be moved to permit injury time.

5. The Government team turning to the workplan for Strand One, commented that items 1-6 had now been completed. After discussion, it was agreed some further discussion on item 6 may be useful, and the Government team agreed to table a paper to the party delegations drawing together the common themes emerging from the submissions put to the previous Talks process/by each of the parties. This paper would focus discussion for the plenary meetings after the election and may lead to areas of work being identified which would best be remitted to sub-committees.

TALKS SECRETARIAT

TALKS/PM/RN/8319