

I N C O N F I D E N C E

RECORD OF A PLENARY MEETING HELD IN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
ON TUESDAY 18 JUNE 1991

<u>Government Team</u>	<u>Alliance Party</u>	<u>UDUP</u>
Secretary of State	Dr Alderdice	Dr Paisley*
Minister of State	Mr Close	Mr Robinson
PUS	Mr Neeson	Mr McCrea
Mr Fell	Mrs Bell	Mr Gibson
Mr Pilling	Mr Jones	Mr Dodds*
Mr Thomas	Mr McBride	Mr Campbell*
Mr McNeill	Mr Dickson	
		<u>UUP</u>
<u>Talks Secretariat</u>	<u>SDLP</u>	
Mr D J R Hill	Mr Hume	Mr Molyneaux
Mr Marsh	Mr Mallon	Mr Cunningham
	Mr McGrady	Mr Nicholson
<u>Also present</u>		Mr Trimble
Mr Pawson	Dr Hendron	Mr Empey*
	Mrs Rodgers	Mr Smyth
	Mr Farren	Mr Maginnis
	Mr Haughey	Mr Donaldson*

\* For part of meeting

A plenary meeting of Strand One of the Talks took place at Parliament Buildings between 11.50am - 12.45pm on 18 June.

2. During Alliance Party clarification of matters in the SDLP presentation the following main points were made:-

- a. Paragraph 5. The term "Anglo-Irish" was simply the traditional language.
- b. Paragraph 7. The Alliance Party considered that there was another tradition whose fundamental identity attached not to territory but to principles. The SDLP wished to move away from the concept of territory to the concept of people, but pointed out that Alliance had earlier described themselves as "pro-Union".
- c. Paragraph 8. The SDLP confirmed that it was the Irish in Ireland, not overseas, who would have to address the island's problems.

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- d. Paragraph 10. The Alliance Party took issue with the assertion that Nationalists had been denied political expression and validity before 1985.
  - e. Paragraph 11. Religion was an important factor, but had no role in politics; any accommodation should have full respect for diversity of belief. In terms of identity, the SDLP asserted that by definition Nationalists did not see themselves as British.
  - f. Paragraph 26. The SDLP confirmed that the reason the Irish Government had a right to involvement in the affairs of Northern Ireland was to ensure the representation of nationalist interests.
  - g. Paragraph 33. The SDLP confirmed their view that the definition of Nationalism as the seeking of a sovereign and independent state was out of date; the future was in a Europe in which power would be devolved to regions. Northern Ireland was a distinctive region.
3. In UUP clarification of the SDLP's presentation, the following main points were made:-
- a. The UUP made clear, for the avoidance of doubt, that the Union was not up for negotiation.
  - b. Paragraph 10. The SDLP felt that the majority of Nationalists supported the Anglo-Irish Agreement, and referred the UUP to paragraph 28 for the reasons.
  - c. Paragraph 12. The intention of the paragraph was to acknowledge the fact that Unionists felt threatened by the Irish ethos.

- d. Paragraph 31. The SDLP confirmed that they would be prepared to accept any proposals for "an encompassing and mutually enriching accommodation" between the Unionist tradition and political Nationalism; this would include an accommodation within Northern Ireland and a relationship between NI and the Republic. They believed that there was no instant package for achieving it.
- e. Section (iv)(E). The SDLP felt that effective co-operation within Europe would result in political unity, but not in a uniform state.

4. In the Minister of State's clarification of the SDLP's presentation, the main points made were as follows:-

- a. Paragraph 10. The SDLP agreed that during the 5 months of the powersharing Executive there had been a working towards an expression of Nationalist identity.
- b. Paragraph 41. The SDLP's view was that the basis of law and order was a consensus on the means of government. The absence of such a consensus could always be exploited by militant extremists. The first sentence of paragraph 40 was a fact, not party policy.
- c. Paragraph 45. The SDLP confirmed that they would, at the appropriate time, bring forward major proposals covering the whole issue of policing and security.
- d. Paragraph 51. The SDLP felt that NI should be represented in Europe, since its interests were not always those of the UK as a whole. They would be bringing forward political proposals to deal with this.

5. The Minister of State reported on the Business Committee meeting held earlier that morning. This week's sessions would remain as arranged. On Monday and Wednesday next week, sessions would be from 10.30-12.45 and from 2.15-6.00; on Tuesday they would be from 10.30-12.45, 2.15-5.30 and 6.30-8.30. A further meeting of the Business Committee would be held next Wednesday morning to consider the following week. The question of whether additional rooms could be made available to delegations for the transaction of Parliamentary and other business was being investigated.

TALKS SECRETARIAT

June

1991