

IN CONFIDENCE

RECORD OF A PLENARY MEETING HELD IN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS ON MONDAY
24 JUNE 1991

Government Team

Secretary of State

Mr Fell
Mr Pilling
Mr McNeill

Talks Secretariat

Mr Hill
Mr Watson

Also present

Mr Pawson

Alliance Party

Dr Alderdice
Mr Dickson
Mr Neeson

Mrs Bell
Mr McBride
Mr McGarry

SDLP

Mr Hume
Mr Mallon
Mr McGrady

Mr Feely
Dr Hendron
Mr Farren

UDUP

Dr Paisley
Rev McCrea
Mr Vitty

UUP

Mr Molyneaux
Mr Nicholson
Mr McGuinness

Mr Allen
Mr Empey
Mr Wilson
Mr McGimpsey

A plenary meeting of Strand One of the Talks took place at Parliament Buildings between 1758 and 1812 on 24 June.

2. The meeting was held to agree the text of a press release summarising the day's business. In particular the Government Team drew attention to the last sentence of the draft statement which referred to the "possible intensification of the process".

3. The SDLP suggested that an amendment be made to this form of words which made reference to consideration being given to future arrangements for further meetings.

4. The UDUP stated they could not accept this together with the second SDLP proposal of omitting reference to the Business Committee in its entirety. The SDLP sought clarification from the Secretary of State as to the status of the Business Committee regarding the power to take decisions independent of the plenary process. The Government Team acknowledged that the Business Committee had no such power. The Government Team offered a further amendment to the text which pointed to the Business Committee "meeting this evening". The UUP responded to this by stating that it was not positive enough in tone. The UDUP made a further proposal to include each of the

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parties' proposals being discussed at the Business Committee. The SDLP did not agree with this.

5. The Alliance Party stated that they thought there were two distinct aspects being considered by the Business Committee. There was firstly the conduct of business beyond clarification stage and secondly the intensification issue which required further consideration. The UDUP acknowledged the Alliance team's analysis.

6. The Government Team proposed a further amendment to the final sentence of the release and this was agreed to by all concerned. (copy attached for ease of reference.)

7. The Government Team stated that the talks would recommence at 10.30 the following morning.

TALKS SECRETARIAT
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NORTHERN IRELAND
Information Service

24 June 1991

AGREED STATEMENT

During plenary sessions this morning and this afternoon an exchange of views was completed on the introductory statement by the UDUP and an exchange of views took place on the Secretary of State's opening statement.

At 4.30pm the plenary session was adjourned to allow the Secretary of State to have meetings with party leaders individually.

The Business Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr Brian Mawhinney, is meeting this evening to discuss the conduct of business in the coming fortnight both as to timing and as to content.