

15th October, 1996

Dear Talks Team,

Pearl and I are sorry that we could not get to the meeting on Monday night. Believe me we would have preferred to have been there. But at least we got an outcome to the Opening Plenary Agenda at last - at 1.00.a.m. I also have to apologise that I will not be able to attend the Next meeting on 24th October as I have an important engagement on that night which I cannot break.

Documentation Enclosed

I am enclosing some documentation with some suggestions as to what we need to prioritise given progress in the Talks. I also need to draw your attention to a decision about confidentiality which was taken in the Talks while I was away and which was reiterated last night. It has been agreed that we are not to talk liberally to the press about party positions taken in the Talks, bar our own position; and we are not to make copies of Talks papers available outside. This may restrict us in the circulation of papers and it certainly puts an onus on us to maintain confidentiality on all papers.

1. I enclose a copy of the agreed agenda for the remainder of the Opening Plenary. **Please do not disclose this information.** This was agreed at 1.00.a.m. on 15 October. We have already dealt with Item 1 and we are now on Item 2.
2. I enclose a copy of the NIWC submission on the Comprehensive Agenda on the 3 Strands. I hope you agree that as far as possible I have incorporated the points raised in our Talks Team meetings, particularly those raised in our long meeting on the agendas for the 3 Strands held on 20 August. I have a note of the points raised if you want to refresh your memory. It should be said that we made the longest submission on the comprehensive Agenda.
3. I enclose a copy of a sample agenda which has been adopted by three parties. **Please do not disclose this information.** This agenda has the benefit of having broad headings which could be adopted by all or most parties. Avila and I are looking at the NIWC agenda in relation to the layout of this sample agenda to see if all our items fit in or whether and where this common agenda might need to be extended to include all our points if adopted..
4. There are a few copies of the complete set of submissions on the Comprehensive Agenda issued by all parties for reference in the office. Please feel free to consult them.

Agenda for 24th October Talks Team

I know that at the last Talks Team meeting that you agreed to discuss some work which Kate and Barbara are going to prepare on powersharing/consociationalism in advance of a round of information and consultation meetings. I also draw your attention to the position we have arrived at in the Talks and which will concern us for several weeks - Item 2 on Decommissioning on the Opening Plenary Agenda. We will need immediate input on this and Avila has begun some work on it. If anyone has any contribution to make on this can they contact me immediately. I would also ask you to discuss decommissioning at the Talks Team Meeting on 24th August. It will be discussed at the **NIWC Consultation Conference on Saturday 19th October** and that should provide some information for the discussion on 24th.

Yours sincerely,

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Bronagh Hinds

**NOTE: Next Meeting 24th October at 8.p.m.- 9 Rossmore Avenue,  
Ormeau Road,  
Belfast**