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From: Independent Chairmen Notetakers  
26 June 1996

SUMMARY RECORD OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES AND  
AGENDA FOR PLENARY SESSION - TUESDAY 25 JUNE 1996 (17.10)

Those present:

Independent Chairmen	Government Teams	Parties
Senator Mitchell	British Government	Alliance Party
General de Chastelain	Irish Government	Labour Party
Mr Holkeri		Northern Ireland Women's Coalition
		Progressive Unionist Party
		Social Democratic and Labour Party
		Ulster Democratic Party
		Ulster Democratic Unionist Party
		United Kingdom Unionist Party
		Ulster Unionist Party

1. The Chairman (Senator Mitchell) thanked the participants for their continuing patience. He mentioned that he had received a briefing on developments during his absence from General de Chastelain and Prime Minister Holkeri, and had had the opportunity to talk to some of the participants, during which several suggestions had been made for making progress on the rules of procedure. There had been insufficient time to consider these suggestions fully before the present session; another brief adjournment - until 18.00 - was necessary in order to evaluate the proposals.

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2. Dr Paisley mentioned that some of the delegates had other pressing commitments for the evening and suggested that it might be appropriate now to set a time to finish for the day. The Chairman thanked Dr Paisley for drawing this to his attention and mentioned that several participants had suggested 19.00 as a finishing time. Mr Empey said that his party would have difficulty beyond 19.00.

3. Mr Robinson said that he was content that the proceedings be stretched to 19.00. He said he had had the opportunity to speak to the Chairman, but not yet the other participants in relation to a proposal for breaking the impasse on procedural rules. The proposal was that there should be some form of analysis of the procedural points, categorising them into those which were amendable, those which were statutorily governed etc. If such a paper was produced for some time tomorrow, the participants could, in the meantime look at the draft rules, readily agree those which were not controversial, and set aside those which were for examination one by one. The Chairman thanked Mr Robinson for the suggestion, which was one of several made to him.

4. Mr Mallon asked if it was not possible to start with decision making so that, for the remainder of the discussion on procedure, the chair would have the means of reaching consensus. The Chairman said that he was already mindful that the point was approaching when decisions would have to be made and urged the participants to bear that in mind during the adjournment. He said that he did not consider that the difference between Mr Mallon and Mr Robinson on the way forward was a substantial one.



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5. The Chairman in adjourning the session until 18.00 urged the participants to confer rapidly in the light of the need for a prompt start.

[Signed]

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