

Office of the Independent Chairmen

Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SG

Tel. (01232) 522957, Fax (01232) 768905

16 September 1996

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Participants

FROM: The Independent Chairmen

SUBJECT: Alliance Party Submission and Rebuttals: Subsequent Handling

The Independent Chairmen have received the attached from the two Governments. This note makes clear that the Governments have reached the view that it would be inappropriate for them to discuss, or to consider any further action in respect of, the Alliance representation against the PUP and UDP.

Given this view, we do not believe any useful purpose would be served by scheduling time for a debate on this representation - although we do intend to allocate time for debate on the other representations made by Alliance - first against the UUP and DUP; and then against the DUP on separate grounds.

However, the suggestion has been made that the separate Alliance Party representation against the DUP could involve matters which are **sub judice**. Legal advice is being sought on this issue as a matter of urgency. Until this advice is received, it is not possible to establish a precise timetable for the further handling of these matters in the Plenary. We expect that the position on **sub judice** will be clarified by the end of tomorrow (Tuesday).

Accordingly, we do not propose to schedule a Plenary session for Tuesday but urge participants to spend the time valuably in bilaterals. The Plenary will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday 18 September, when the Chairmen expect, subject to consultation with the participants, to be in a position to indicate that the debate on the Alliance representations can proceed, and to set out timings for that debate consistent with the precedents established in the handling of previous representations.