

6 JUN 1996 15:38

NIO CPL 0171 210 0229

NO. 829 P.1

The Reverend Dr Ian R K Paisley MP MEP
91 Dundela Avenue
BELFAST
BT4 3BU

4 June 1996

as soon as possible after you receive the name of a person with whom he should be in contact (a colleague, or indeed yourself if you wish) over initial administrative arrangements for the negotiations.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a response I propose to give tomorrow to a parliamentary question about the negotiations.

Dear Ian,

Under the terms of section 2 of the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996 I am writing to you as the nominating representative of a party which has been successful in the elections, to invite you to nominate a team to participate in the negotiations beginning next Monday. I will be in touch further about arrangements for the negotiations.

The negotiating team must under the Act be composed of delegates returned at the elections. There is no limit to the number of delegates who may be included. The Ground Rules for the negotiations agreed by the two governments would however generally limit a party's team for any one meeting to three (with a further three people, who need not be elected, in support if they wish).

We need to make arrangements with all speed. It would be helpful if your nomination could be passed to me as quickly as possible, and in any event no later than 6 June, via the head of our Talks Administration Unit, Mr Peter Dickinson. His telephone number is 01232 522128 and his fax number 01232 522119.

SOFS/31469

6.JUN.1996 15:38

NIO CPL 0171 210 0229

NO.829 P.2

25/Secretary of State (L&B)
25/Sir John Wheeler (L&B)
25/Michael Aueran (L&B)
25/WB (L&B)
25/Sir David Fell
Mr Thomas
Mr Bell
Mr Blackwell
Mr Leach
Mr Watkins

It would be convenient also if Mr Dickinson could be notified as soon as possible after you receive this letter of the name of a person with whom he should be in contact (a colleague, or indeed yourself if you wish) over initial administrative arrangements for the negotiations.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of a response I propose to give tomorrow to a parliamentary question about nominations to the negotiations.

I also enclose a note about the allowances which the two Governments intend to pay to delegates, in respect of the meetings in the relevant strands.

We shall be in touch further about arrangements for the negotiations.

I believe we are embarking on a process of dialogue with great potential to improve the lives and prospects of the people of Northern Ireland, and of everyone in these two islands. I look forward very much to your contribution.

Cllr Gary McMichael
Ulster Democratic Party

Alderman Hugh Smyth
Progressive Unionist Party

SIGNED

Ms Monica McWilliams
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

P.M

SOFS/31469

cc CH

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L&B)	- B
PS/Sir John Wheeler (L&B)	- B
PS/Michael Ancram (L&B)	- B
PS/PUS (L&B)	- B
PS/Sir David Fell	- B
Mr Thomas	- B
Mr Bell	- B
Mr Blackwell	- B
Mr Leach	- B
Mr Watkins	- B
Mr Wood (L&B)	- B
Mr Beeton	- B
Mrs Brown	- B
Mr Carson, Forum Sec	- B
Mr D J R Hill	- B
Mr Lavery	- B
Mr Maccabe	- B
Mr Stephens	- B
Mr Whysall	- B
Mr P Dickinson	- B
Mr Clayton, HOLAB	- B
Mr McCartney, DFP Sols	- M
Mr Brearley	- B
Mr Campbell Bannerman	- B

The Secretary of State has also written in similar terms to:

Cllr Dr John Alderdice
Alliance Party

Cllr Mark Langhammer
Labour

Robert McCartney QC MP
UK Unionist Party

David Trimble MP
Ulster Unionist Party

John Hume MP
SDLP

Cllr Gary McMichael
Ulster Democratic Party

Alderman Hugh Smyth
Progressive Unionist Party

Ms Monica McWilliams
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

PQ REPLY

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he will make a statement about nominations to the forthcoming political negotiations, and about progress in setting up the forum established by the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996. It is not met, so invitation can be issued in respect of Sinn Féin.

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW

I have issued invitations to nominate teams to participate in the negotiations, under section 2(2) of the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996, to the nominating representatives of the following parties:

Alliance Party

Democratic Unionist Party - DUP

Labour

Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

Progressive Unionist Party (PUP)

Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)

UK Unionist Party - Robert McCartney

Ulster Democratic Party (UDP)

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

I am required by section 2(3) of the Act to refrain from inviting nominations in respect of any party if I consider that requirements set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Ground Rules for substantive all-party negotiations (published as command paper 3232) are not met in relation to it. Paragraph 9 of the Ground Rules makes clear the

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agreement of the British and Irish governments that the participation of Sinn Fein in the negotiations requires the unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire of August 1994.

After consultation with the Irish Government, both Governments are agreed that this requirement is not met and that for so long as it is not met, no invitation can be issued in respect of Sinn Fein.

Letters have also been sent to the nominating representatives of all parties returned at the elections, including Sinn Fein, about arrangements for the forum. With them is a draft of initial rules of procedure, on which we seek comment. The letters also deal with the location of the forum: we have now identified suitable premises for it at the Interpoint Centre in Belfast. I am placing a copy of these letters in the Library of the House.

delegations (and party support staff) will be able to claim subsistence and travel expenses at the standard Civil Service rates.

In addition, it is intended to pay the following to parties:

Party Allowance

a flat rate party allowance of £300 (or such lesser figure as may be agreed in the Business Committee) for each day in which the party concerned is involved in negotiations.

Party Research Grants

a party research grant in respect of vouched expenditure on relevant items of work, up to a maximum of £5,000 per quarter.

ALLOWANCES FOR DELEGATES AND PARTIES

As indicated in Michael Ancram's letter of 18 April, it is intended to pay the following allowances to individuals:

Loss of earnings

a loss of earnings allowance at a daily rate of £100, and £50 for less than 4 hours will be payable to elected delegates only, on the basis of relevant attendance for the purposes of the negotiations. This can be claimed in arrears.

Substantive/travel expenses

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Mr John Hume MP MEP
Social Democratic and Labour Party
Cranmore House
611c Lisburn Road
Belfast BT9 7YT

Yours sincerely

6 June 1996

Dear John:

We are writing to you about a number of arrangements for the negotiations that are to begin next Monday.

The opening plenary will begin at 2pm in Castle Buildings in Belfast. The Talks Administration Unit will be in touch about access and other practical arrangements.

We enclose a number of papers prepared by the two Governments:

- Scenario for the Opening Plenary Session
- Procedural Guidelines for the Conduct of Substantive All-Party Negotiations (as referred to in paragraph 5 of the "Scenario for the Opening Plenary Session")
- Draft Agenda for Substantive All-Party Negotiations (as referred to in paragraph 9 of the "Scenario for the Opening Plenary Session"). (The list of Strand 1 issues for inclusion on the agenda is suggested by the British Government alone).



SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR

NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

WHITEHALL

LONDON SW1A 2J2

*Handed
over to
Intr Side*

We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Secretary of State
6100 Whitehall Road
BELFAST
BT9 7YD

Yours sincerely

6 June 1996

Patrick Mayhew

Dick Spring

The Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP
Secretary of State
for Northern Ireland

Dick Spring TD
Tánaiste and Minister
for Foreign Affairs

section 2 of the Northern Ireland (Executive Power) Act 1996 (the Act) in writing to you as the
nominating representative of a party which has been
successful in the elections, to invite you to nominate a
team to participate in the negotiations beginning next
Monday.

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delegates returned at the elections. There is no limit to
the number of delegates who may be included. The Ground
Rules for the negotiations agreed by the two governments
would however generally limit a party's team for any one
meeting to three (with a further three people, who need not
be elected, in support if they wish).

We need to make arrangements with all speed. It would be
helpful if your nomination could be passed to us as quickly
as possible, and in any event no later than 6 June, via the
head of our talks administration unit, Mr Peter Dickinson.
His telephone number is 01232 527126 and his fax number
01232 527129.

5. Jun. 1996 11:37

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No. 8362 P. 2/6



SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

*Added
over to
Inner Side*

John Hume Esq MP MEP
Cranmore House
611c Lisburn Road
BELFAST
BT9 7YT

6, June 1996

*I am enclosing for your information a copy of a response I
propose to a parliamentary question about
arrangements for the negotiations.*

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James Swinney

John

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ALL-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS: LAUNCH OF DOCUMENTS

Following agreement on paragraph 4 of the "Scenario" paper last night, the Liaison Group met this morning to finalise the range of papers which, in order to launch the negotiations, it is necessary to send to the prospective Chairmen and (once they have accepted the invitation to serve) to the participating parties and then to publish. We reached agreement with the Irish this morning on all these texts, which are attached:

- Scenario for the Opening Plenary Session;
- Procedural Guidelines for the conduct of substantive all-party negotiations;

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