

NBPM
File with my
letter to
Mark Howard



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

SE:EO
by fax
① to Mark Howard,
N10
② Bamber
John 24/6.

of 20 June. John 24/6.

20 June 1996

Dear Mr Holmes

Further to our conversation today I enclose a
fax of the page from which Ancreau read out the
typed text. After he did so he passed the paper
to us. I immediately scribbled out the second sentence
Ancreau then wrote, as you can see, that the object was
was for the parties to adopt the ground rules.
The number 240 at foot shows that this text was
prepared well before Wednesday. This "accident"
had been waiting to happen for some time!

Sincerely

David Trimble

rules of procedure

These ~~procedural guidelines~~ supplement and develop the Ground Rules for the Substantive All-Party Negotiations published by the two Governments on 16 April 1996. Taken together they constitute the procedural rules for the negotiations as a whole and can only be amended by agreement, *in accordance*

- this proposed formula gives the parties the opportunity formally to adopt the Ground Rules
- and acknowledges the ~~of~~ ability to amend Ground Rules,

10, DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

rules of procedure

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David Trimble telephoned me today to brief me on UUP views of where the process now stood. He said that Tuesday had been a good day, and he had been confident at that stage that agreement was likely to be reached on the rules of procedure. He had had a meeting with the Secretary of State on Tuesday evening when there had seemed to be agreement on how to handle the issue of amendments in the context of the rules.

However, things had gone wrong in the middle of Wednesday morning when Michael Ancram quite unnecessarily in his view, responded to a question from Peter Robinson about the ground rules by producing a sheet of paper with a list of amendments which had already been clearly been prepared for some time. The UUP were suspicious that it had been cooked up with a view to undermining the process.

The UUP had suggested to the Chairman last night that on Monday, when the talks reconvened, they should go back to the previous discussion on the rules of procedure and try to conclude that. They would then return to the ground rules question and try to sort that out. They hoped that, after a rest for all concerned, it would be easier to tackle.

The UUP view was that there was absolutely no need to incorporate all the ground rules paper. The ground rules could be left to sit there on one side without becoming an issue in this way. He understood that the DUP had had a meeting earlier today with Michael Ancram. Their view was that it was for him to rescue the situation he had created. They were not against using bits of the ground rules paper as the procedural rules for the plenary, but not the whole lot.

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POLDEVT/240

CONFIDENTIAL

19/6/96

11.00am

from David Hill