

Prime Minister

Northern Ireland : Update.

Edward till 6²/₁

Themblyan - but what
an event were you Gool
doing here at 0140?!

John 12/6

Thank you,

c. JEH
JH
MC

1. The NIO phoned at 0140 with the following update.
2. They have a deal. Mitchell is in the chair. Only the DUP + McCartney walked out.
Detail:
 3. After hours more of coming and going this evening, all sides bar the UUP and UKUP signed up to the following:
 - Mitchell to chair the plenary 'on his own experience'. No procedure rules for the moment
 - Mitchell also to chair "procedure committee" - which all parties will attend - to design new rules of procedure. This will meet in parallel with the plenary.
 4. On this basis, Mitchell took the chair at 0100. Paisley + Co + McCartney walked out.
 5. Mitchell promptly got all the parties remaining - UUP, SDLP, PUP (NO for Loyalists) or - to sign up to the Mitchell principles. These were then published. The statement notes that the DUP (+ SF) had been 'absent'.

so leaving open the door for them to return later, if they choose.

10 DOWNING STREET CONFIDENTIAL SUBJECT

6. Party Mayhew (and the party leaders) have all done a series of press interviews for today's papers. More journalistically positive (not to say surprised).
7. The proceedings start again at 1100, when the parties meet together under Mitchell's chairmanship - formally as the procedural committee - to start drafting new rules. In practice this will involve everyone.
8. A good time to get Mayhew/Ancram is between 10.30 and 1100, if we need to. Mayhew's proposal. Once the rules of 6 June had been accepted, temporarily, the pass would have been valid. In any case it was him to a
9. I passed on your warm congratulations to the NIO team. This is pretty impressive progress, given what we were this afternoon. Fortunately, the parties seem to have rallied, Paisley apart, how great would be the price for Unionism of walking away.
10. One fence at a time - and one more fence surmounted. We inch forward.

(cont'd)
12/6

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