

Notes for the Chairman to Consider in Preparation for the Tuesday 01 Oct Plenary

I

1. You will have seen the proposed three subjects to be discussed:
 - Record of previous Meetings;
 - Review of the Revised Paper on Confidentiality; and
 - Agenda for the remainder of the Opening Plenary.
2. In your opening remarks you might consider covering the following:
 - Explain the senator's absence and the fact he had mentioned previously he would have to be absent from time to time. This is such a time;
 - You have made a proposal as to subjects you feel should be discussed at this meeting. Before you ask participants' for agreement to that proposal, there are three other issues you would like to address. These are:
 - You discussed with all the participants their views on publishing the Rules of Procedure and they all seemed to be in agreement¹. Unless they wish to express views to the contrary now, it is your intention to have the Rules of Procedure released to the Public;
 - You had also discussed with each of the participants the question of Opening Statements on the Agenda of the Remainder of the Opening Plenary. The consensus seemed to be that Opening Statements should be restricted to one per participating party or Government, and that it should be time-limited. You will leave the final decision to the discussion that will take place on the Agenda today; and
 - At a previous meeting of the Plenary Committee it was agreed that Records of the Plenary Meetings would be available for approval on a weekly basis. Accordingly, it is the intention of the Chairman that Records of Plenary Sessions will be circulated on the Friday of the week in which the Meetings took place, ready for approval at the next Meeting of the Plenary Committee. You trust that will be suitable to the participants.
3. You now open the discussion to the floor, and you seek comments from the participants on your proposal for the subjects to be discussed at this meeting.

¹ On Wednesday the Senator did not discuss this or the next subject with the UUP. We should do so before the Tuesday Plenary

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II

After our discussion with some of the parties on Wednesday afternoon, it seems likely that two topics could be raised on which we might usefully prepare possible responses. These include:

- One party will insist that in future, at the end of a meeting of the Plenary Committee, the Chairman must specify when the next Meeting will take place and not leave it to "The Call of the Chair";

- One party will note that the reason given for not calling meetings of the Plenary Committee seems to be that some subjects are deemed to need bilateral agreement before being brought before all the participants. But we have Rules to govern such an eventuality. Rules 30 and 31 give the Chairman adequate tools to deal with a subject in the Plenary that is not agreed unanimously, before proceeding to the use of consensus. Therefore there should be no need for endless bilaterals to be held between a few of the participants while the remainder sit around doing nothing. The issues should be brought to the Plenary and decided there