

# Office of the Independent Chairmen

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## STATEMENT BY SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL

DECEMBER 2, 1997

The plenary meeting today was business-like and constructive. The participants agreed to the formation of a small working group to prepare (1) an agreed statement of the key issues to be resolved, and (2) an agreed format for resolving those issues. The working group will include representatives of each participant. It will hold its first meeting tomorrow morning and will report its recommendations to the full plenary on December 15.

We believe that the participants are serious and committed to moving this process forward, and we're more hopeful than ever that meaningful progress is possible. We are encouraged by this modest but important step and we look forward to what we hope will be a productive period before the Christmas break.

-End-

For more information, contact: Kelly Currie [REDACTED]