

Office of the Independent Chairmen

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TO: All Participants
FROM: The Independent Chairmen
SUBJECT: Draft Paper for Discussion

April 3, 1998

We submit this Draft Paper to provide a basis for further discussion by the participants. We emphasize that this is a Draft Paper, subject to revision. As we have previously said, after receiving and reviewing your comments over the weekend, we will submit a revised paper on Monday.

Although it includes some of our thoughts and words, it is predominantly a synthesis of the views of all of the participants, advanced orally at group meetings in the various strands, sub-groups and sub-committees and in bilateral meetings with us, and in written submissions.

We submit this Draft Paper on the following understanding:

(1) The participants asked that we do so, in the belief, which we share, that it is necessary to establish an overall view of the issues to facilitate further discussion and final decision.

(2) As you will see, several issues remain unresolved, notably in Strands One and Two. In some of those cases we have presented alternative suggestions or competing arguments for your consideration. After receiving your further comments over the weekend, wherever possible we hope to consolidate these differences into a single text in the revised paper we submit to you on Monday.

(3) Seeing the issues in this comprehensive way strengthens our conviction, as we hope it will yours, that a fair and responsible agreement is possible.

(4) In preparing this paper we have followed the order of subjects set forth in Annex 2 of the "Proposals for the Comprehensive Agenda," annexed to the Procedural Motion adopted by the participants on September 24, 1997. This does not reflect any attempt on our part to establish priorities, as we recognize that the order of subjects in a final agreement is itself a matter for discussion and decision by the participants.

(5) We are committed - as you are - to the deadline of Thursday, April 9. We believe this Draft Paper will help us to meet it.