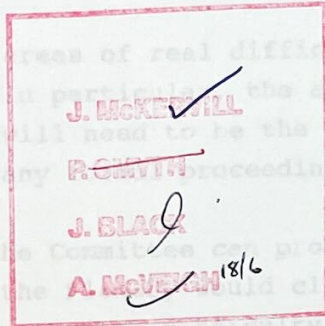


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FROM: D J R HILL
12 June 1996



cc PS/PUS (B&L) - B
PS/Sir David Fell - B
Mr Thomas - B
Mr Bell - B
Mr Leach - B
Mr Watkins - B
Mr Steele - B
Mr Wood (B&L) - B
Mr Maccabe - B
Mr Stephens - B
Mr Lavery - B
Mr Beeton - B
Mr Perry - B
Mr Currie - B
Ms Harrison - B
Mr Whysall - B
Mr Lamont, RID - B
HMA Dublin - B
Miss Collins, Cab Office

PS/Michael Ancram (B&L) - B
PS/Secretary of State (B&L) - B

SCHEDULING TALKS NEXT WEEK

There will be scheduling problems next week: we need to have a clear view of what is feasible, and what we might propose to the Chairman and others.

2. The 'committee' which is conferring on the procedural rules in mandated to report to Plenary by lunchtime on Wednesday 19 June. The Renewal Debate will take place that evening so the Secretary of State and many delegates will need to leave Northern Ireland by mid-afternoon at the very latest.

3. Unless a deal can be struck in the committee by Wednesday (which is unlikely) the report will be in the nature of an interim report. Senator Mitchell is hoping that the Committee will at least identify:

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- areas of common ground (eg much of the 1992 guidelines);
- areas where there are different views but where agreement might be reached fairly easily, perhaps even in the Committee (eg on decision taking and the definition of sufficient consensus);
- areas of real difficulty (precise role of Chairman and, in particular, the agenda for the Opening Plenary) which will need to be the subject of a deal, probably outside any formal proceedings.

2. If the Committee can produce such a report in the time available, the Plenary would clearly not be the place to debate the outstanding areas of difficulty. Equally, Plenary would need formally to take note of the report and determine what to do next.

3. Given the need to move the process along, and the time pressures, I suggest that it would be highly desirable to work towards a short formal Plenary immediately after lunch on Wednesday 19 June, which would remit any outstanding issues for further consideration in an appropriate format to report back by, say, 10.00 am on Monday 24 June. (Such an approach has the incidental advantage that the renewal debate would not take place against the background of an open argument about these outstanding issues: Ministers would simply report that consideration continued to be given to these important procedural points.) Meanwhile, we would need to consider how best to take forward the process of cracking the outstanding issues. With luck, the Irish Government and Ulster Unionists will be engaged; but we would probably need to fix meetings with both in the latter part of next week.

4. It would be helpful to know:

- whether Ministers would be available to attend a short Plenary early on Wednesday afternoon;

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The 12 June
Paper said
a Plenary
by
lunchtime!

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- From - (from Mr Bell) Irish Ministers' availability;
Constitutional and Political Division
- Phone - whether Ministers' would be content to pursue the broad
Fax - approach sketched out in the previous paragraph;
Telex -
- Date - whether they would in fact be available for meetings with
the UUP and/or Mr Spring on 20 and 21 June.

5. Subject to that, we may need to begin to push the other players into line, perhaps beginning at the meeting with Mr Spring and the Independent Chairmen on Monday morning.

Signed

D J R HILL
Political Development Team

Mr Thomas
Mr Bell
Mr Leach
Mr Steele
Mr Watkins
Mr Wood (B&L)
Mr Beaton
Mr Hill
Mr McCabe
Mr Stephens (for)

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

TALKS: PLENARY: 12 JUNE: PUP STATEMENT

I attach the statement read out by Mr Smyth on behalf of the PUP during the plenary just after midnight (paragraph 7 of the internal record).

A J Whysall

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