

NORTHERN IRELAND FORUM

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14th June 1996

Senator George Mitchell
5th Floor
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Dear Senator Mitchell

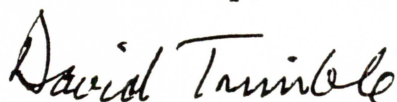
I enclose a proposed agenda for the remainder of the opening plenary session and proposed procedural rules to replace procedural guidelines.

I assume that notwithstanding the deadline this afternoon you will be open to second thoughts and better thoughts next week as well as amendments prompted by consideration of the papers submitted by other parties.

The paper agreed on 12th June related specifically to "the procedural guidelines". We have interpreted these as being the "Proposed Guidelines for the Conduct of Substantive Multi-Party Negotiations" in pages 8 to 16 of the paper annexed to the Secretary of State - letter of 6th June. Those guidelines are founded on the Command Paper 3232 known as Ground Rules. The latter appears to be outside the review we will conduct next week but within the Agenda for the remainder of the opening Plenary Session. We consider the Ground Rules to be defective with regard to the so-called Third Strand and we will be seeking amendments there, together with a re-structuring of the way the issues covered by the three strands are dealt with. We have not introduced these matters at this stage, as they will be considered later in Plenary. But if the changes we have in mind for Ground Rules are adopted there will then have to be some consequential changes to the procedural guidelines particularly with regard to the liaison arrangements for Strand Three.

I am content for you to copy this letter to other parties.

Yours sincerely,



DAVID TRIMBLE