



Northern Ireland Office
Stormont Castle
Belfast BT4 3ST

David Trimble Esq MP
3 Glengall Street
BELFAST
BT12 5AE

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David

Thank you for your letter of today's date in which you tell me that the proposed agenda for the Opening Plenary session of the negotiations which start on Monday 10 June is unacceptable to your Party.

I am sorry to learn this. As you know, I tried to arrange a comprehensive discussion on either Saturday or Sunday last when I was at Hillsborough. It is now in practice too close to Monday to revise our proposed agenda before then.

However, when we spoke by telephone on Thursday I made it clear that all the arrangements described in the opening day scenario paper had the character of proposals put forward on behalf of the two Governments in advance of 10 June. It will be for the participants to determine whether or not to adopt them. This is as true of the proposed agenda for the opening plenary as for anything else.

It is clear, however, that the first few items on the proposed agenda reflect the implementation of a key element of the 28 February Joint Communique by the two Governments - that is, the requirement to make clear a total and absolute commitment to the six Mitchell principles - which of course your Party fully endorses.



In the light of this it would seem sensible for any issues relating to the opening plenary agenda to be raised, as they of course can be, after this key element has been completed.

I understand you are likely to be meeting Senator Mitchell and General de Chastelain on Sunday.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

*Yours sincerely,
John Hume*