

## *Talks*

*10 June 1996*

### *(Business Committee)*

*SDLP - Seamus Mallon*

All know tactic was ? as long as ? allow - ? ? negotiations and ? unacceptable ask for only to confirm will proceed to appoint chair - if not now ? plenary ?

*UDP - Gary McMichael*

? to agree ? ? ? for smaller grouping - closer need for ? - to proceed ? ? chairmanship ? other.  
Mr McMichael now content.

*Dick Spring*

?

1. Agree on Chairperson
2. Subscribe to Mitchell.

*UUP - Reg Empey*

To comment on 6.6.96 tactic.  
? set up vitally important.  
Prescriptive and ? methodology  
? through and go home  
No tactic - ?  
? documents have been crafted

*DUP*

We have difficulty ? two governments - if proposing ? we would not? at the impasses - only ?  
to Prime Minister that we are permitted to raise this.

*Labour - Curran*

CCOB Mitchell ? chairman

*ADJOURN 20 MINUTES*

**15.25pm**

*DUP - Dr Paisley*

chairmanship - interim chairman for session

1 UUP and 1 SDLP - 2 ? parties

*SDLP - Seamus Mallon*

Opposed - ? confidence in ? chair ? proposal.

*DUP - Dr Paisley*

? ? until appointed by ?. ? should be ?

? 2 - chairman who appointed them.

*UUP - David Trimble*

content ? your chairmanship - ? on how extensive ? find convenient to more ? Committee - ? rotating chair.

*UK Unionist*

Support Trimble

Their ? Republic of Ireland only observer role.

? chair until ? chair ?

*DUP - Dr Paisley*

Content if you take chair - co-chair only if ??? therefore ? proposal.

*Sir Patrick Mayhew*

? unfair

*SDLP - Eddie McGrady*

Opening plenary ? ? of Talks appropriate. Co-chairman of ? governments

*Sir Patrick Mayhew*

Accept ?

There are ? convened my governments, ? invited ? ? - for governments to put forward own invites for chair of opening plenary.

Continue to be occupied by me and see how we get on.

Invite contributions on the chair's power and selection.

*Alliance*

On ? not known. ? ? ? Spring signed - ? ? ? ? - ? would be conducted.

*Dick Spring*

? of interim practical discussion ? on permanent chairman.

*UK Unionist - O'Brien*

Not happy under joint chairmanship  
Spring and Bruton - known ? for Unionist tradition.  
Spring should quietly withdraw.

*Labour - Curran*

Republic of Ireland ? to ? - happy ? chair

*UK Unionist - Robert McCartney*

NI Act 1996 S2(2) - Secretary of State ? invitation from ? - committee 4.6.96  
Hear ? to Act of Parliament - ? to convene.  
To ? Northern Ireland under your Chairmanship or appointed by you.

*SDLP -*

Parity of esteem talks.  
Self ? negotiations by two governments - clear two governments centrally involved.

*DUP - Wm. McCrea*

My proposal gave full weight for parity of esteem.

*DUP - Dr Paisley*

If here on ?joint invite no desire to stay.  
Thought good/? Unionists and ? to take chair.

*UUP - David Trimble*

To not ? Alderdice in ? you ? ? from legislation.  
Committee - 8.8.96 ? be proposals - we may accept or ?

*UK Unionists*

Parity of esteem - ? same right as majority in constitutional affairs. Parity of esteem for each individual.  
In chair ??

*SDLP - John Hume*

Today not about Strand 1 - this plenary session involving both governments.

*DUP - Peter Robinson*

Inappropriate for Spring to have say in Strand 1  
These are jointly ? - 28.2.96 Communiqué.  
Ground rules - ? ? are consistent  
We jointly convened these negotiations.



Irish government in Strands 2 and 3 appropriate.  
The negotiations are jointly convened.  
Each government entitled to supply chair.  
Spring says this will be chaired by me only.

*UUP - David Trimble*

Someone has not yet appointed chair - for the moment content with chair.  
Try to move on.

*DUP - Dr Paisley*

Amazed at Hume thought - same information.  
Prime Minister assured me these would not be convned by anyone but government - British  
government ? law.  
Accepted Prime Ministers word.

*Dick Spring*

Joint chairman - anxious to move on to permanent chairman - not discussion of Strand 1.  
Agree to conditions on ? of both governments.

*DUP - Dr Paisley*

? on both governments. I ought not to be here. ? to the ??

*SDLP - John Hume*

*PUP - David Irvine*

Move on.

*NI Women's Coalition - Monica McWilliams*

*UDP - McCarter*

Secretary of State to act in interim.

*Sir Patrick Mayhew*

Selection of chairman.

*UK Unionist - Robert McCartney*

? everyone had to sign up to Mitchell.  
Until then no one really ??? criteria.

*Alliance - John Alderdice*

Invite to nominate/invite to attend ? to be dealt with when plenary to start.



*DUP - Peter Robinson*

Nominate to participate.

*Alliance - John Alderdice*

Content to accept invitation.

*Labour*

? on ? of ground rules.

*NI Women's Coalition*

Happy to proceed on 3 names.

*PUP*

Need to get down as to who is chairman - concerns about powers given to chairman - power from body of ?

*PUP - Ervine*

? accept but role crucial.

*SDLP - Hume*

Accept agenda.

*UDP*

Government has pre-empted by nominating - parties to ? role, authority and function.

*DUP*

Anyone who ?? to be ? - what capacity ?

? by two governments to look into our ? to see if we want ?

He may not think ??

Any power must ? from this plenary.

Governments should try to take ? and ? - ? no self respecting ? count take this - no government has right to appoint. 3 of ? 1 asked ??? as previous.

Joint ? - appoint committee to nominate candidates for chairman and his power.

?? for one section of the community.

*UK Unionist - O'Brien*

Move on to 6 principles.

If some do not subscribe, ???

*UK Unionist - Robert McCartney*

? by PUP and UDP and role, function and power of chairman.  
? mention 10 & 11 - no ? of ? other than subjective ? of chairman - an extraordinary power.  
?? on ??-making Sinn Fein.  
Will satisfy ? they are acting in good faith.  
?? of decommissioning ?can be strung out ?  
it is for the body to ?  
? have sub-committee to take nominations and deal with appointments.

*UUP - David Trimble*

3 issues

- a. role and power
  - b. identify
  - c. Opening Plenary Agenda
- 
- a. Clear distinction between 92' talks ex ? ? ? continuation - purely independent neutral chairman.  
concerned by talks supreme  
model of neutral chair or active ? of discussion  
looking at document of 6.6.96 not independent neutral chairman  
to amend tomorrow to make independent chair now and alternate  
The page 2 paragraph 4 invite to assist 2 Governments paragraph 5 ground work  
If paragraph 4 stands, chairman has political role in overall control  
Paragraph 4 (pp 3/4) not for independent chairman to be satisfied - similarly paragraph 11 page 5 for all of us to be satisfied - I will not delegate to anyone else's satisfaction if genuine intent of any other  
Paragraph 13 decommissioning committee not acceptable if only avenue of information  
Page 10 paragraph 4 responsible for re-establishing any meetings - provisory business committee ? ? ?  
Also page 11 paragraph 12 chairman to convene plenary meetings also timing and duration  
Paragraph 15 acceptable - cannot but forward ? ?  
Paragraphs 16/21 too much responsibility to chair meeting  
Primary concern chairman primarily independent
  - b. Chair identity  
Person concerned some experience  
Will agree Mitchell report as a ? good report  
difference between decommissioning and job now  
Perception of person and comments - Irish Government and ? have seriously ? credibility  
Perception created that he will be biased  
There is suggestion on page 2 paragraph 4 not individual invite but to groups to try and act in group capacity

- c. Opening Plenary  
Draft Alternative opening available to Secretary of State  
The Secretary of States draft - very substantial objections in particular decommissioning has been down graded from communiqué of 28.2.96  
At beginning comment to Mitchell  
Commitment - decommissioning - agenda  
clear breach of faith by communiqué  
decommissioning immediately after No 4 - No 7 - 8  
No discussion of procedural items - must do  
Extensive change of procedural items  
Ground Rules open for discussion and objection  
? and paper no legal effect only paragraphs 8 & 9 referred to in legislation  
? ? ? open for discussion and must be changed

Assured before appointment of any chairperson

*Alliance - John Alderdice*

P of O Clarification on law, we decided to finish and meet tomorrow

How we decide re:-

*DUP - Dr. Paisley*

Do go on to-night - no hurry - wants to meet early in the morning

*Sir Patrick Mayhew*

General answer for delegates to decide next meeting and time  
Do not want to go on too long - but wants to end on ? note

*U U P - David Trimble*

Mr Trimble indicated there would be difficulty in attending this today since he was a co-sponsor in a Private Bill in the House of Commons tomorrow.

*Sir Patrick Mayhew*

ADJOURNMENT 5.00 p.m.

*U U P - David Trimble*

Suggests going to Committee

*Sir Patrick Mayhew*

Too early at this stage