

PROPOSALS REGARDING THE COMPREHENSIVE AGENDA

Please find enclosed the draft agenda for Strand 1 originally proposed by the British Government, incorporating the amendment notified to delegates at the end of July.

There is no change to the draft agendas for Strands 2 and 3 (also attached for ease of reference) which were proposed by the British and Irish Governments on 25 July.

So far as the British Government is concerned those draft agendas were intended to provide a basis for discussion. They were based, with only minor adjustments, on the agendas agreed in 1991/92 by the participants in those Talks.

There was of course a certain amount of discussion about the nature of the comprehensive agenda during consideration of the rules of procedure. The British Government would quite understand if the parties wished to adapt their positions on the comprehensive agenda in the light of that discussion; and would be happy to fall in with any alternative proposals which seemed capable of winning general support.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR STRAND ONE ISSUES

1. Discussion of requirements for a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland.
2. Consideration of possible principles and criteria for new arrangements within Northern Ireland.
3. The question of institutional and other practical implications of these discussions.

Topics likely to arise include:

- Constitutional Issues
- The nature of institutional arrangements for and within Northern Ireland, which meet any agreed criteria, including, nature and extent of powers eg legislative, executive, administrative; structures for exercising these powers; safeguards to maintain cross-community confidence and financial arrangements;
- The extent to which present or proposed arrangements attract the assent and support of both sides of the community and ensure equity of treatment;
- Relationships with other institutions eg Westminster Parliament, any new North/South relationships, any new Intergovernmental arrangements and the European Union;
- Consideration of arrangements for the protection of rights;
- law and order matters.

This list is not comprehensive and other issues may emerge in discussion.

4. Report to plenary.

JOINT PROPOSAL OF THE BRITISH & IRISH GOVERNMENTS

STRAND TWO ISSUES

1. Discussion of requirements for a new beginning for relationships within the island of Ireland, including fundamental aspects of the problem: underlying realities; identity; allegiance; constitutional.
2. Common interests (including matters such as economic co-operation and development, security co-operation and law enforcement co-operation) and themes.
3. The question of institutional arrangements and any other practical implications to meet agreed requirements (including principles to govern any such arrangements).
4. Relationship of such new institutional arrangements to other structures - eg: UK Government and Parliament; Irish Government and Parliament; Northern Ireland structures; Irish-UK intergovernmental structures; the European Union.
5. Measures for the guarantee and protection of rights.
6. Consequential measures needed to implement, support and underwrite such new structures.
7. Report to Plenary.

JOINT PROPOSAL OF THE BRITISH & IRISH GOVERNMENTS

STRAND THREE ISSUES

1. Opening presentations by the two Governments.
2. Establishment of necessary mechanisms to provide a meaningful role for the political parties in respect of Strand Three issues.
3. Examination of the causes of the conflict in Northern Ireland, its impact and its implications for the two Governments.
4. Principles and criteria which should underpin new arrangements, including requirements to acknowledge and recognise the rights of the two major traditions that exist in Ireland.
5. The question of institutional arrangements and provisions of any new agreement or structure.
6. Arrangements needed to implement, support and underwrite any new agreement or structure.
7. Constitutional issues.
8. Consideration of arrangements for the protection of rights.
9. Arrangements for the approval and implementation of a comprehensive agreement.
10. Report to Plenary.