

Office of the Independent Chairmen

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MEMBERS

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 1997 AT 1040

CHAIRMAN: General de Chastelain

THOSE PRESENT: British Government
Irish Government

Alliance
Labour
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition
Progressive Unionist Party
Sinn Féin
Social Democratic and Labour Party
Ulster Democratic Party
Ulster Unionist Party

Item 1 - Minutes of 29 October

These were agreed as circulated. Following a point raised by the PUP concerning the change of date from 12 to 19 November the Chairman assured the meeting that the participants of the Business Committee had agreed to the change, acting on the recommendation of earlier Strand meetings. The Chairman stressed the need to ensure flexibility in the scheduling of meetings to accommodate changes as and when these were required. But he assured the meeting that such changes would be determined by Business Committee members only.

Item 2 - Arrangements for the Review Plenary

The Chairman proposed a tentative start time of 1100 on Monday 1 December for the Review Plenary, which was scheduled to run for three consecutive days. Noting that the Chairman of the Plenary had yet to determine, in consultation with the participants, the precise format for the Review Plenary it was agreed that this matter be left to Senator Mitchell, as well as a final decision on timing.

Item 3 - Proposals for Christmas Recess Dates

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the negotiations would break for Christmas no later than 17 December, to resume on 12 January 1998.

Item 4 - Any other business

The Chairman proposed that a meeting of the Liaison Sub-Committee on Decommissioning be held on Tuesday 25 November at 1400, to enable the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning to brief the participants on its Initial Report. This report will be circulated to participants on Friday afternoon 21 November. This was agreed.

Following a Sinn Féin proposal that meetings of Strand Two be held in Dublin and London, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, before the Christmas recess, it was agreed, after discussion, that the two Governments would consult the participants on post Christmas dates for meetings in the respective capitals and that these could be agreed at the next meeting of the Business Committee.

Following the NIWC's request that a date be set for the next meeting of the Liaison Sub-Committee on confidence building measures, it was agreed that the Chairman of the sub-committee (Senator Mitchell) would be invited to propose a date for the next

meeting. (Note was made that at the last meeting of the Liaison Sub-Committee it had been agreed that future meetings take place fortnightly.)

As proposed by Sinn Féin, it was agreed that Talks Administration would be invited to embark on the compilation into booklets of those documents submitted by participants under the various Strand agenda items.

Item 5 - Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be at the call of the chair.

**Independent Chairmen Notetakers
19 November 1997**

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