

ANNEX C I

WEIGHTED MAJORITIES AND THRESHOLDS - AN ALLIANCE VIEW

We would see the use of weighted majority voting for contentious issues and the use of threshold votes as a trigger mechanism for the activation of appeal procedures as an essential means of ensuring that the Assembly functioned on a give and take basis.

We would envisage a majority of 70% of members of the Assembly being required for the appointment of Speaker, for the ratification of the panel of Chairmen, and for contentious legislation.

That requirement might be invoked by statute by the Business Committee, or by a petition of 30% of the members of the Assembly. When legislation had passed through the Assembly it could be referred by a petition of 30% of the members of the Assembly either to the proposed panel or to the Westminster Parliament. Votes on departmental estimates would also be by weighted majority.

Similar procedures might be applied in respect of decision making within committees, though we are aware that there could be practical difficulties in implementing such procedures. In any event committee decisions reported to the Assembly would be subject to the same weighted majority and threshold mechanisms.