

Memorandum

3 July 1996

To: All Participants

From: Senator George Mitchell
General John de Chastelain
Prime Minister Harri Holkeri

1. We have reviewed your proposals for the schedule for these discussions. As with other issues, the proposals differ. Although it is not possible to propose a schedule which wholly accommodates each participant, we have attempted to accommodate as many as possible.
2. In this proposal we seek to strike a balance between two objectives: a) the overriding importance, as expressed by many of the participants, of making real progress in the talks; and b) the desirability of certainty in the schedule, including a summer break during which participants can be with their families.
3. We believe that demonstrable progress to the maximum extent can and should be made during July. Such progress could include a plenary session at which, at a minimum, the following actions could be taken: a) agreement on the agenda for the opening plenary; b) agreement on the rules of procedure and related issues, including the status of those rules; c) appointment of the business committee; and d) delivery of opening statements by participants.

Many of you have expressed concern about the lack of progress to date, so that failure to achieve these modest objectives, after two months of discussion, might undermine public confidence in the process.

4. We suggest for your consideration the following schedule:

a) ~~Tuesday, July 9~~ and Wednesday, July 10;

Tuesday, July 16, Wednesday, July 17, and ~~Thursday, July 18~~;

Monday, July 22; Tuesday, July 23; Wednesday, July 24; and Thursday, July 25;

Monday, July 29; ~~Tuesday, July 30~~ and ~~Wednesday, July 31~~.

For your ready reference, a calendar is attached.

- b) All such meetings should begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude not later than 7:00 p.m., unless participants decide otherwise.
- c) There would be a summer break from August 1 through September 8, with talks resuming on Monday, September 9.

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