

All reworking of rules 15 to 17

3 July 1996

15 All participants in the negotiations will negotiate in good faith, seriously address all aspects of the agreed agenda, and make every effort to reach a comprehensive agreement. They will maintain confidentiality on all aspects of the negotiations except where they may from time to time agree publicity.

15A The negotiations in the various formats, committees and subcommittees, will be on the basis of a comprehensive agenda for the negotiations as a whole, adopted by agreement by the relevant participants in the opening plenary. Participants may by agreement, develop or refine the comprehensive agenda.

16 Any participant in the format in question will be free to raise any aspect of the three relationships, including constitutional issues and any other matter which it considers relevant. (The procedures and substance of the negotiations will be exclusively a matter for the relevant participants) *outcome*. No outcome is either pre-determined or excluded in advance or limited by anything other than the need for agreement. Participation in negotiations is without prejudice to any participant's commitment to the achievement by exclusively peaceful means of its preferred options. It is common ground that any agreement, if it is to command widespread support will need to give adequate expression to the totality of all three relationships.

17 The agenda for each meeting of the negotiations shall be settled by the participants on the basis of proposals put forward by the Chairman in accordance with the overall agenda in the relevant format, and taking into account ~~the indicative calendar~~ *advice* and the views of the Business Committee.

17 A The relevant Chairman will have responsibility for convening, re-scheduling and adjourning meetings, having due regard to the views of the Business Committee or, as appropriate, of the relevant participants. It is understood, however, that any delegation may request an adjournment of up to 20 minutes at a time and the Chairman shall refuse such requests only if they are made with unreasonable frequency.

17 B Strand One negotiations will take place in Castle Buildings, Belfast. Strand Two negotiations will take place in Belfast, Dublin and London, at times agreed by the Business Committee. The two Governments will determine where Strand Three meetings will take place. The Business Committee shall determine the venue of its own meetings.

17 C The negotiations shall normally occur only on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. *etc.*

existing 15B omitted