

Notes on Rules of procedure
28 June 1996
referring to proposed Additions of 27 June

15 - Emphasise need for agreement on agenda.
Words added in bold reinforce impression that individual party can insist on all its considers significant being on agenda. We agree that matters can be raised, that they could be considered, but we must have some say on the agenda.

HMG will say that in 1992 Unionists insisted that the constitutional position of NI be at head of strand 1 agenda. I do not know reason why. Maybe they wanted it established and out of the way. We could achieve same objective today through agreement on the principle of consent, and agreement on practical cosequences of applying principle to circumstances before us.

17A - Press hard for inclusion of first sentence of our amendment UU 1. That sentence based on first sentence of Ground Rules with "procedures and substance" instead of "conduct". I do not see how Govts can justify omission.

28A - Grumble about this. Also tease out meaning of "contingent agreement"

33 - We thought this had been agreed, in which case it should have been in the 27 June edition of the Rules. Nonetheless try to push them closer to a proper negotiating role for the parties in strand 3.

No real need to get involved in the DUP amendments. Our UU 2 is to the same effect as DU 4 and DU 22.

OTHER RULES?

Raise possibility of a rule confining meetings of talks to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We need to have at least two days clearly for Forum when its Committees get under way.

On parked rules:

I see no great problem on additional plenaries after the opening for there are some general issues, such as the consent principle, which cut across all three strands. And we should not exclude the possibility that other matters might arise which would make a meeting desirable. However should the Chair have, as in rule 11, an untrammelled right to summon one whenever he deems it necessary?

Chair asked for memo on Monday re future meetings. Press for Monday 8 July to be free for Forum: it wants to meet that day then adjourn for holidays. Parliament rises on 25 July so I am free till then & NIO will want to run to then.
D Trimble