

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

Proposed action re rules of procedure and ground rules

Any gap in rules of procedure should be filled so that there is a single document that contains all our rules.

There are certain matters in ground rules which we have assumed and should now carry forward into the rules. These include the 5 rules the UUP tabled last night as amendments viz, ground rules (GR) 8, 9, 10, 11 and 17 (participation and exclusion).

Other necessary changes are in the section of the rules headed "Conduct of Proceedings".

We need all of GR 18 -

"Negotiations will address all three interlocking sets of relationships as a totality. Negotiations in each of the three interlocking strands will open on the same day and will proceed in parallel. However, unless otherwise agreed by the Business Committee, negotiating sessions in different strands, or within strands, will not be held simultaneously, to allow participants if they so wish, the option of fielding the same negotiating team throughout the negotiations.

The opening 2 lines of GR 19 and 20 -

Negotiations on strand one issues will involve the British Government and the political parties.

Negotiations on strand two issues will involve both the British and Irish Governments and the political parties.

(Rules 31 to 34 if agreed define the participants in strand 3.)

The Government argues that we need to show a connection between the negotiations mentioned in the Act and those in the Rules. This can be done by inserting GR 1 -

The purpose of the negotiations will be to achieve a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the peoples of these islands, and to agree new institutions and structures to take account of the totality of relationships.

There then remains in Ground Rules only statements of the Governments hopes and policies. Clearly they may retain their policies and presumably those policies will inform the approach taken by the Government on those matters, but the Conference cannot adopt those policies as our rules.

D Trimble, 19 June 1996, 1.10 pm