

## PARTY MOTIONS...SUBMISSION TO PLENARY

The question has been raised concerning the matter where a Notice of Motion may be brought before Plenary for debate and to be voted upon.

The Northern Ireland Political Talks Process is primarily about negotiations between two, or among more than two, of the parties involved. It is **not** about the provision of a debating facility.

However, the N.I. Negotiations Rules of Procedure (Rule 37) does allow those involved in the Talks to request the Northern Ireland Forum for Political Dialogue to "consider, investigate or discuss a specified subject". This facility should normally be employed.

Only matters which are of such **urgency or significant import that they may, if neglected, detrimentally influence the overall conduct of the negotiations** should be debated and deliberated upon within Plenary or within such a forum as Plenary may decide. Such circumstances should, as far as is possible, be properly defined.

Ulster Unionists suggest that:-

(i) No issue, being the subject of or directly pertaining to any item of business on the Agreed Agenda of Plenary shall be the subject of a Notice of Motion or voted upon until such times as the item, including all its constituent parts, has been fully considered by Plenary. However, The Chairman may allow such a Motion if he deems that sufficient time has been devoted to an issue, and that a formal test of opinion within Plenary would be helpful.

(ii) No issue which may reasonably be deemed, by Plenary, likely to be included as an Agreed Agenda item for future consideration by Plenary shall be the subject of a Notice of Motion or voted upon.

Ken Maginnis  
2 December, 1996.