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PST, PSS, Ministers Owen
de Rossa & Taylor, Attorney
General, Minister of State
Coveney, Messrs. Teahan,
Donlon & Dalton, Ambs
London and Washington, Joint
Secretary, Counsellors A-I

Secure Fax: 774**30 July 1996****No of pages including this one: 3****To: HQ****From: Belfast****For: Second Secretary O hUiginn****From: Joint Secretary****Subj: Proposal on agenda for remainder of opening Plenary**

To confirm:

1. General De Chastelain asked today whether the two Governments still stood by the proposed agenda for the remainder of the opening Plenary which they submitted on 25 July. If they intended to submit an alternative proposal, he hoped to receive it this afternoon.
2. The British proposed that the revised agenda agreed between us yesterday (copy attached) might be transmitted to General De Chastelain. They saw merit, and presumed that we would also, in avoiding the immediate engagement with decommissioning which the 25 July agenda would require following the resumption on 9 September.
3. Further to our conversation, I confirmed to Peter Bell that we were agreeable to yesterday's text going to the Chairman as a joint proposal. I made the personal comment that whatever faint prospect there was yesterday of securing agreement on the agenda disappeared with the British refusal to put that draft on the table at the outset.
4. I also made clear that we understood the General's interest in this matter to relate to general tidying-up after yesterday (in the absence of Senator Mitchell and key staff today) rather than to any notion that there was agreement that such matters could be pursued in the Business Committee prior to the resumption.
5. I am told that the General, who is leaving Belfast later this afternoon, was simply trying to tie up a few loose ends and was not in any sense approaching this matter as Chairman of the Business Committee. He spent the morning meeting a number of

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parties in the latter capacity (Robinson, McMichael and a UKUP representative). These parties reportedly told him that, as the SDLP had refused to allow the circulation of their proposals for the comprehensive agenda, they would also be unwilling to allow their own proposals to be circulated.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE OPENING PLENARY

The two Governments propose that the opening plenary should elect for a Bureau which has agreed the following agenda for the remainder of the opening plenary, which should resume on 9 September.

1. Opening Statements.
2. Discussion of comprehensive agenda for negotiations.
3. Consideration of International Body's proposals as to decommissioning and mechanisms necessary to enable further progress to be made on decommissioning alongside negotiations in the three strands.
4. Adoption of comprehensive agenda.
5. a. launch of three-stranded negotiations.
b. establishment of whatever mechanisms to enable further progress to be made on decommissioning are agreed pursuant to the consideration at item 3.
6. Concluding remarks by the Independent Chairmen.

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(29 July)

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE OPENING PLENARY

The two Governments propose that the opening plenary should break for a Summer recess having agreed the following agenda for the remainder of the opening plenary, which should resume on 9 September.

1. Opening Statements.
2. Discussion of comprehensive agenda for negotiations.
3. Consideration of International Body's proposals on decommissioning and mechanisms necessary to enable further progress to be made on decommissioning alongside negotiations in the three strands.
4. Adoption of comprehensive agenda.
5.
 - a. launch of three-stranded negotiations
 - b. establishment of whatever mechanisms to enable further progress to be made on decommissioning are agreed pursuant to the consideration at item 3.
6. Concluding remarks by the Independent Chairman.