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CONFIDENTIAL

A PROPOSITION FROM THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS, 24 JULY 1996

1. It is common ground that all participants wish to see the maximum possible progress before the summer recess. The two Governments have considered how this could best be facilitated.
2. The Opening Plenary session has yet to deal with the following issues:
 - (a) adoption of the rules of procedure;
 - (b) establishment of the Business Committee;
 - (c) consideration of the International Body's proposals on decommissioning, including ^{agreement on} consideration of the mechanisms necessary to enable further progress to be made on decommissioning alongside negotiations in the three strands;
 - (d) discussion and adoption of the comprehensive agenda for the negotiations;
 - (e) opening statements; and
 - (f) the launch of the three-stranded negotiations in parallel with the establishment of the agreed machinery to carry forward work on decommissioning.

3. With a view to achieving the desired progress, the two Governments believe that the Opening Plenary must, at a minimum, complete its work on points (a) to (d) before the summer break.

4. We welcome the independent Chairmen's decision to publish draft rules of procedure reflecting their best judgement of what is likely to prove acceptable to all delegations. We support these proposals.

5. In order to assist further progress in the negotiations, we attach a draft agenda for the remainder of the Opening Plenary for the consideration of the parties.

6. We propose that the agenda and the rules of procedure be agreed this week in the informal round table discussions and be formally adopted by the Opening Plenary, which we propose should be reconvened at 10am on Monday 29 July.

7. We believe that it should be possible to reach agreement on the proposed rules of procedure and agenda relatively quickly. However, if efforts to achieve agreement on the basis of consensus prove to be unsuccessful, we would propose that agreement be reached on the basis of sufficient consensus.

8. We would also propose, with a view to preparing the ground for next week's work in the Plenary, that the following additional measures be agreed during this week's round table discussions:

- An informal working group should be established to consider the mechanisms necessary to enable further progress to be made on

decommissioning alongside negotiations in the three strands. This working group should be required to report to the Plenary by 6 pm on Tuesday 30 July.

- The relevant participants should be invited to forward to the Chairmen of the relevant strands by 6 pm on Monday 29 July, written amendments to the draft agenda for Strand One, tabled by the British Government, and the attached draft agenda for Strand Two, tabled by the two Governments. (Copies of these agendas are attached, together with the agenda for Strand Three agreed between the two Governments.)

9. Following ratification of the rules of procedure and the agenda for the Opening Plenary, the reconvened Plenary meeting would proceed to work through the remainder of its agenda, beginning with the establishment of the business committee, before moving on to consideration of the International Body's proposals on decommissioning. The two Governments propose that the Plenary sit on Wednesday 31 July to consider and take decisions on the basis of the report from the informal working group on the machinery to carry forward work on decommissioning.

10. We also propose that, before rising for the summer break, the Plenary should consider the proposals on the agendas for Strands One and Two, if necessary in sub-committee, and proceed to the adoption of the comprehensive agenda for the negotiations.

11. Following adoption of the comprehensive agenda, we would propose that the Opening Plenary should be ^{adjourned} suspended until early September, and reconvene with

opening statements, followed by the launch of the negotiations in the three strands and the establishment of the agreed machinery to carry forward work on decommissioning.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR RESUMED OPENING PLENARY

1. Adoption of Agenda for Opening Plenary.
2. Adoption of Rules of Procedures.
3. Establishment of Business Committee.
4. Consideration of International Body's proposals on decommissioning:
 - (a) Discussion of Proposals;
 - (b) Participants' commitment to work constructively to implement all aspects of Report of International Body;
 - (c) Consideration of mechanisms necessary to enable further progress to be made on decommissioning alongside negotiations in three strands.
5. Discussion of comprehensive Agenda for negotiations.
6. Adoption of comprehensive Agenda.
7. Opening Statements.
8. Establishment of agreed machinery to carry forward work on decommissioning; launch of three-stranded negotiations.
9. Concluding remarks by Independent Chairman.