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(24 July - 10.45)

INFORMAL PAPER FROM THE [BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS]

- 1. It is common ground that it would be desirable to demonstrate significant forward movement in the negotiations before any Summer recess. The [two Governments] have considered how this could best be facilitated.
- 2. The opening plenary session has yet to determine a number of procedural issues
 - (a) adoption of rules of procedure
 - (b) adoption of agenda for the rest of the opening plenary session
 - (c) appointment of Business Committee.
- 3. The substantive issues which would then fall to be addressed during the opening plenary are
 - (a) opening statements
 - (b) address to the International Body's proposals on decommissioning
 - (c) discussion and adoption of a comprehensive agenda for the negotiations.
- 4. Ideally, we would wish the opening plenary to determine the outstanding procedural issues and complete its address to the International Body's proposals on decommissioning before the Summer recess.
- 5. We welcome the Independent Chairmen's [intention to publish] [publication of] draft rules of procedure reflecting their best judgement of what is likely to prove acceptable to all delegations.

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- 6. In order to promote the achievement of significant forward movement in the negotiations we propose that
 - delegations should also be invited to consider the attached draft agenda for the rest of the opening plenary, which reflects the two Governments' judgement of what is likely to prove acceptable to all delegations. The Government delegations will be happy to explain their judgement in detail at the appropriate moment
 - [this afternoon's] round table meeting should be invited to agree the agenda and the rules of procedure.
- 7. We believe it should be possible to reach agreement on these texts relatively quickly, but delegations will have opportunities to raise any outstanding concerns of real significance for them.

 Subject to that, the two Governments propose that
 - after determined efforts to achieve consensus, agreement should be reached on the agenda and the rules of procedure on the basis of sufficient consensus.
- 8. Additionally, the two Governments propose that
 - the "opening statements", which are intended to allow each delegation to set out its approach to the negotiations and its position on key issues, should be deferred until after the Summer recess;
 - in preparation for and to advance the address to the International Body's proposals on decommissioning, each delegation should prepare and circulate [by 5 pm on Friday 26 July] written proposals regarding the nature and terms of reference of the procedural mechanism which might be put in place to take forward substantive consideration of the decommissioning issue in parallel

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with the substantive political negotiations. [It might be convenient to establish an informal subgroup to facilitate multilateral exchanges on these matters on 25 and 26 July]

- within the same timescale each delegation should let the relevant Chairmen have their written comments on the draft agendas for the three strands of substantive political discussions which were circulated by the two Governments on 6 June, and any proposed additions.
- 9. The plenary beginning on Monday might then aim to
 - ratify the rules of procedure and the agenda for the remainder of the opening plenary session
 - consider of the International Body's proposals on decommissioning
 - discuss proposals to be tabled by the relevant
 Chairmen, following informal consultations in the
 margins of meetings of the plenary, regarding the
 agenda for each strand of the substantive political
 negotiations.
- 10. We envisage that after an initial round table discussion of the International Body's proposals on decommissioning, further consideration of that agenda item might be remitted to a Committee, which would ideally be able to make a report to plenary before the Summer recess. In any event we believe that we should formally establish by then the participants' commitment to work constructively to implement all aspects of the Body's report. Discussion of the comprehensive agenda might similarly be remitted to a Committee, to report on the same timescale.

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- 11. It is possible that any Committees will need to report after the Summer recess but in any event we propose that the plenary should meet on Monday 9 September with the following agenda:
 - opening statements
 - adoption of comprehensive agenda
 - establishment of agreed machinery to carry forward work on decommissioning
 - launch of three-stranded negotiations. We believe it would be helpful if delegations could join in making a firm commitment to achieve this by 16 September at the latest
 - concluding remarks by Independent Chairman.

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24 July 1996

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR RESUMED OPENING PLENARY

- Adoption of Agenda for Opening Plenary.
- 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. Opening Statements.
- Adoption of comprehensive Agenda.
- 8. Establishment of agreed machinery to carry forward work on decommissioning; launch of three-stranded negotiations.
- 9. Concluding remarks by Independent Chairman

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