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(POLDEVT/66)

*British redraft of their
research paper to take account
of Irish informal paper of 23 July*

INFORMAL PAPER FROM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, 23 JULY 1996 (5.45 pm)

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) an 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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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
- tomorrow's round table meeting should be invited to agree the agenda and the rules of procedure by lunchtime.

6. 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.

7. 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

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and terms of reference of the procedural mechanism which might be put in place to take forward consideration of the decommissioning issue in parallel 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, and any proposed additions.

8. 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
- address the International Body's proposals on decommissioning and determine the procedural mechanism for taking forward the decommissioning issue.

9. Participants might in parallel, perhaps in an informal subcommittee

- discuss proposals to be tabled by the relevant Chairmen regarding the agenda for each strand of the substantive political negotiations.

10. After the Summer recess we propose that the plenary should complete the following agenda

- opening statements
- adoption of comprehensive agenda

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- establishment of agreed machinery to carry forward work on decommissioning; launch of three stranded negotiations
- concluding remarks by Independent Chairman.

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