

Informal paper from Irish Government, 23 July 1996

1. It is common ground that all participants want to see maximum progress before the summer recess. The Governments and the Chairmen have considered how this could best be facilitated.
2. Ideally, we would wish to see all the outstanding procedural issues resolved before the break, enabling the opening plenary to conclude and substantive negotiations to begin immediately on resumption in September.
3. The outstanding procedural issues are
 - (a) rules of procedure
 - (b) agenda or sequence of remainder of opening plenary *comprising*
 - ~~(c)~~ - comprehensive agenda for substantive negotiations
 - ~~(d)~~ - addressing the report of the International Body and deciding procedural means of dealing with the decommissioning issue
 - ~~(e)~~ - establishment of business committee, three strands and mechanism for (d) above.
4. In order to advance this agenda to the maximum extent we propose
 - (a) The Chairman should close the discussion on the rules of procedure which has been conducted over more than a month now, and put the matter to decision on Wednesday, for formal ratification, if approved at a Plenary on Monday.
 - (b) He should propose an agenda for the remainder of the opening plenary, with the goal of completing the procedural aspects before the break. *= 3(b)
ie leave out opening statement*
 - (c) In order to allow maximum discussion of the comprehensive agenda the two Governments would confirm the agenda for Strand 3, retable the draft agenda for Strand Two and the British Government would do likewise for Strand One.
 - (d) The relevant Chairmen would ask for written amendments, preliminary to discussion of a (possibly) amended draft agenda in other subcommittees or Plenary, as expedient. *either*
 - (e) To prepare and advance the discussion of decommissioning the participants

would consider the issue, and the nature and terms of reference of the procedural mechanisms which would be used to deal with it in the substantive negotiations.

(f) The Plenary beginning on Monday would ~~have~~ ^{aim}

- to ratify the rules of procedure
- to establish the Business Committee
- to adopt the comprehensive agenda
- to establish formally the three strands of the negotiations
- to address the report of the International Body on decommissioning and ~~establish~~ ^{determine} the procedural mechanism to deal with it substantively

(g) The opening Plenary would conclude immediately after the recess with general statements by all the participants on the negotiations.