

DRAFT AGENDA FOR SUBSTANTIVE ALL-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS

1. Paragraph 14 of the Ground Rules for Substantive All-Party Negotiations provides that the opening plenary session of the negotiations will adopt a comprehensive agenda for the negotiations which will:

2. *Introductory remarks by Chairman.*

- be in accordance with the necessity for confidence building measures as spelt out in paragraph 12 of the joint Communiqué adopted by the two Governments on 28 February 1996;
- provide reassurance, both in terms of addressing the report of the International Body and ensuring that a meaningful and inclusive process of negotiations is genuinely being offered; and

3. *Appointment of Business Committee.*

- include all the significant items which the various negotiating teams consider relevant and which will, therefore, have to be addressed in the search for an agreement.

4. *Discussion of comprehensive agenda for negotiations.*

2. Paragraph 3 of the Ground Rules provides that any participant in the strand in question will be free to raise any aspect of the three relationships, including constitutional issues and any other matter it considers relevant.

5. *Adoption of comprehensive agenda for negotiations and*

3. The attached draft agenda is intended to be compatible with the requirements of paragraph 14 of the Ground Rules and is without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 3. Consideration of the agenda, therefore, is not at this stage intended to determine whether or not a particular matter should be on the table, but rather to facilitate agreement on an efficient structure for discussion of all the relevant issues which does not prejudice a fair hearing for any of them.

4. A preliminary list of issues which the two Governments consider it necessary, as a minimum, to include on the agenda is attached. (The list of Strand 1 issues for inclusion on the agenda is suggested by the British Government alone.)

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

1. Formal opening by two Governments and hand-over to Independent Chairman.
2. Introductory remarks by Chairman.
3. Participants to make formal declaration making clear their total and absolute commitment to International Body's principles of democracy and non-violence.
4. Public statement on behalf of all participants recording total and absolute commitment to principles.
5. Appointment of Business Committee.
6. Opening statements by the participants.
7. Discussion of comprehensive agenda for negotiations.
8. Discussion of International Body's proposals on decommissioning.
9. Adoption of comprehensive agenda for negotiations and procedural rules.
10. Report of the Chairman for the purpose set out in paragraph 12 of "Scenario for the Opening Plenary Session"; Governments' proposal to establish a sub-committee on decommissioning.
11. Concluding statement by the Independent Chairman.

THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1. Consideration of any proposed changes to the rules of for procedure drawn up by the two Governments for adoption in plenary.

2. Adoption of an indicative calendar for the negotiations.

3. Possible consideration of draft agenda. other practical implications of these discussions.

4. Decisions on venues of Strand Two meetings.

Topics likely to arise include:

- The constitutional position of Northern Ireland

- The nature of institutional arrangements for and within Northern Ireland, which meet any agreed criteria, including, nature and extent of powers eg legislative, executive, administrative; structures for exercising these powers; safeguards to maintain cross-community confidence and financial arrangements;

- The extent to which present or proposed arrangements attract the assent and support of both sides of the community and ensure equity of treatment;

- Relationships with other institutions eg Westminster Parliament, any new North/South relationships, any new Intergovernmental arrangements and the European Union;

Consider STRAND ONE ISSUES for the protection
of rights

1. Discussion of requirements for a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland.
This list is not comprehensive and other issues may
2. Consideration of possible principles and criteria for new arrangements within Northern Ireland.
Report to Secretary
3. The question of institutional and other practical implications of these discussions.

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- The constitutional position of Northern Ireland
- The nature of institutional arrangements for and within Northern Ireland, which meet any agreed criteria, including, nature and extent of powers eg legislative, executive, administrative; structures for exercising these powers; safeguards to maintain cross-community confidence and financial arrangements;
- The extent to which present or proposed arrangements attract the assent and support of both sides of the community and ensure equity of treatment;
- Relationships with other institutions eg Westminster Parliament, any new North/South relationships, any new Intergovernmental arrangements and the European Union;

- Consideration of arrangements for the protection of rights

1. Discussion of law and order matters new beginning for relationships within the island of Ireland, including fundamental. This list is not comprehensive and other issues may emerge in discussion.
2. 4. Union Report to Plenary on matters such as economic co-operation and development, security co-operation and law enforcement co-operation and themes.
3. The question of institutional arrangements and any other practical implications to meet agreed requirements (including principles to govern any such arrangements).
4. Relationship of such new institutional arrangements to other structures - eg: UK Government and Parliament; Irish Government and Parliament; Northern Ireland structures; Irish-UK intergovernmental structures; the European Union.
5. Measures for the guarantee and protection of rights.
6. Consequential measures needed to implement, support and underwrite such new structures.
7. Report to Plenary.

STRAND TWO ISSUES

1. Opening presentations by the two Governments.
1. Discussion of requirements for a new beginning for relationships within the island of Ireland, including fundamental aspects of the problem: underlying realities; identity; allegiance; constitutional.
2. Common interests (including matters such as economic Ireland, co-operation and development, security co-operation and law enforcement co-operation) and themes.
4. Principles and criteria which should underpin new
3. The question of institutional arrangements and any other practical implications to meet agreed requirements (including principles to govern any such arrangements).
4. Relationship of such new institutional arrangements to other structures - eg: UK Government and Parliament; Irish Government and Parliament; Northern Ireland structures; Irish-UK intergovernmental structures; the European Union.
6. new agreement or structure.
5. Measures for the guarantee and protection of rights.
7. Constitutional issues.
6. Consequential measures needed to implement, support and underwrite such new structures.
8. for the protection of rights.
7. Report to Plenary: the approval and implementation of a comprehensive agreement.
10. Report to Plenary.

STRAND THREE ISSUES

1. Opening presentations by the two Governments.
2. Establishment of necessary mechanisms to provide a meaningful role for the political parties in respect of Strand Three issues.
3. Examination of the causes of the conflict in Northern Ireland, its impact and its implications for the two Governments.
4. Principles and criteria which should underpin new arrangements, including requirements to acknowledge and recognise the rights of the two major traditions that exist in Ireland.
5. The question of institutional arrangements and provisions of any new agreement or structure.
6. Arrangements needed to implement, support and underwrite any new agreement or structure.
7. Constitutional issues.
8. Consideration of arrangements for the protection of rights.
9. Arrangements for the approval and implementation of a comprehensive agreement.
10. Report to Plenary.

CONCLUDING PLENARY SESSION

- 1 Consideration of outstanding issues arising from the three strands and the sub-committee on decommissioning.
- 2 Consideration of arrangements for the approval and implementation of a comprehensive agreement.

Mr Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew QC MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland,
Northern Ireland Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Dear Sir Patrick,

Northern Ireland Forum

Thank you for your two letters of 4th inst.

First Meeting

We would welcome an early confirmation of the date of the first meeting in order to facilitate arrangements.

Procedures

We have no particular comments to make.

Interim Chairman

I have discussed this with my colleagues and we have no proposals which we wish to make.

Proposals

Clearly the proposals proposed are less than ideal, but no more viable alternatives seem to be available.

Reporting of Proceedings

We welcome the assurance that these are to hand.