

DRAFT: 13 September 1996

POSSIBLE TIME-LIMITED AGENDA FOR REMAINDER OF OPENING PLENARY

[Preliminary stage: Debate and agreement on agenda for remainder of opening Plenary. 3 days: 23-25 September]

1. Consideration of International Body's proposals on decommissioning. [3 days: 30 September-2 October]
2. Consideration of comprehensive agenda for three-stranded negotiations. [2 days: 7-8 October]
3. Statements by participants. [3 days: 9 October, 14-15 October]
4. Adoption of comprehensive agenda; establishment of whatever mechanisms to enable further progress to be made on decommissioning are agreed pursuant to item 1. [$\frac{1}{2}$ day: 16 October]
5. Concluding remarks by Independent Chairman. [$\frac{1}{2}$ day: 16 October]

Assumptions:

- a. Plenary sessions to run for total of 6 hours per day [10-12.30 and 14.30-18.00].
- b. Each participant allowed $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs for statement (and questions?) under item 3.
- c. Trilaterals between British Government, Irish Government and UUP to be concluded before item 1 ends (ideally, before it starts).
- d. Objective is launch of 3 strands and decommissioning sub-committee on 21 October.

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e. Several variants are possible - eg

- statements by participants taken as item 1 (this would allow more time to complete the trilaterals);
- statements by participants dropped altogether - or no questions allowed (this would cut down the time between the conclusion of the address to decommissioning and the commencement of the strands - and therefore reduce opportunities for the DUP/UKUP to unpick the deal);
- agenda business proper could start during week of 23 September, if agreement on the opening Plenary agenda were reached early in that week.

Mr Hill - B

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The Secretary of State was pleased to see the progress of the 12 September. He is content with your suggested agenda for the next week, subject to Michael Amundson's views. In addition, the following should be noted:

- The Secretary of State has not yet decided whether to perhaps PM/Michael Amundson (with a view to the UK).
- Now that EDH has been put into effect, the Secretary of State will be challenged to deal with the Irish situation as it arises.