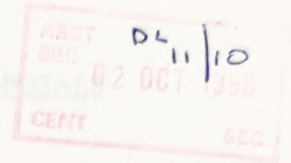


RESTRICTED

525/96

FROM: D J R HILL
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
2 OCTOBER 1996



cc: Mr Thomas -B
Mr Stephens -B
Mr Lavery -B
Mr Maccabe -B
Ms Mapstone -B
Mrs McNally -B

Mr Whysall - B

COMPREHENSIVE AGENDA

General de Chastelain gave me in confidence a bundle of papers revealing the parties' views as at 30 July on the agenda for the rest of the opening plenary. This has purely historical interest.

2. With it was enclosed the attached set of papers setting out the parties' views on the comprehensive agenda, and these are of some current interest. Obviously the debate has moved on since 30 July and the SDLP and UUP seem to have reached a measure of agreement on a slimmed down agenda which may carry the day. It is, however, interesting to see the SDLP's proposed agenda, which must look pretty reassuring to Unionists: it is clearly predicated on Northern Ireland remaining part of the UK and there is considerable emphasis on institutional and other arrangements within Northern Ireland, although it also refers to north/south bodies with executive powers. The DUP proposals are also of some interest: they do not expose much flank but there is a reference to "institutional arrangements" in their strand 2 agenda. The UKUP proposals do at least indicate where McCartney is coming from.

(signed)

D J R HILL
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
CB x22317

RESTRICTED

POLDEVT/1390/CAO

COMPREHENSIVE AGENDA PROPOSALS

AS OF 30 JULY

1. HMG proposal for Strand One Talks (amended as of 30 July)
2. Joint British and Irish Governments' proposal for Strand Two and Three Talks
3. UKUP proposals (Strand One, Two and Three Talks)
4. SDLP proposals (Strand One, Two and Three Talks)
5. DUP proposal (Strand One and Two Talks)

John de Chastelain
06 September

COMPREHENSIVE AGENDA

General John de Chastelain
Chairman, Business Committee
Office of the Independent Chairman

Minute 2 to
Letter HMG Letter POLDEVT/884 of 30 July

12 July 1994

This letter was from the British Government notifying one change of detail in their proposals for the agenda of the Strand One Talks.

The British Government would like to let you know whether they had proposals to make in relation to the comprehensive agenda for the substantive part of the negotiations, and whether they were content for these proposals to be circulated.

On 29 July the British and Irish Governments re-circulated to all delegations proposals regarding the agenda for each of the three strands of the talks. The British Government would like to know if you were content for the proposals in respect of strand one issues coming from the British Government alone.

In the light of discussions on the rules of procedure and on the comprehensive agenda the British Government delegation can see advantage in developing agendas which contain relatively broad headings and has already indicated, for example, that it would be content for "constitutional issues" to be substituted for the first indent under item 2 of the proposed agenda for strand one issues.

The British Government delegation would be content for this clarification to be circulated to other delegations.

Yours sincerely,

John de Chastelain

D. J. R. HILL
BRITISH GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

POLDEVT/884

General John de Chastelain
Chairman, Business Committee
Office of the Independent Chairmen

30 July 1996

Dear General de Chastelain,

You invited participants to let you know whether they had proposals to make in relation to the comprehensive agenda for the substantive political negotiations, and whether they were content for those proposals to be circulated.

On 25 July the British and Irish Governments recirculated to all delegations proposals regarding the agenda for each of the three strands (the proposals in respect of strand one issues coming from the British Government alone).

In the light of discussions on the rules of procedure and on the comprehensive agenda the British Government delegation can see advantage in developing agendas which contain relatively broad headings and has already indicated, for example, that it would be content for "constitutional issues" to be substituted for the first indent under item 3 of the proposed agenda for strand one issues.

The British Government delegation would be content for this clarification to be circulated to other delegations.

yours sincerely,

D J R Hill

D J R HILL
BRITISH GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

POLDEVT/884

HMG PROPOSED AGENDA FOR STRAND ONE ISSUES

(amended 30 July 96)

1. Discussion of requirements for a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland.
2. Consideration of possible principles and criteria for new arrangements within Northern Ireland.
3. The question of institutional and other practical implications of these discussions.

Topics likely to arise include:

Constitutional Issues

- ~~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;
- law and order matters.

This list is not comprehensive and other issues may emerge in discussion.

4. Report to Plenary

BRITISH & IRISH COURTS

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR STRAND TWO ISSUES

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 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.

BRITISH AND IRISH GOVTS'

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR 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.

UKUP PROPOSED AGENDA FOR STRAND ONE ISSUES

1. Discussion of the governance of Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom.
2. Consideration of possible principles and criteria for new arrangements within Northern Ireland.
3. The question of institutional and other practical implications of these discussions.
4. Report to Plenary.

UKUP PROPOSED AGENDA FOR STRAND TWO ISSUES

1. Consideration of the impediment of Articles 2 and 3 to pragmatic cross border co-operation.
2. Common interests (including matters such as economic co-operation and development, security co-operation and law enforcement co-operation) and themes.
3. Report to Plenary.

EDLP SUBMISSION FOR COMPREHENSIVE AGENDA FOR
ALL-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS

STRAND ONE

UKUP PROPOSED AGENDA FOR STRAND THREE ISSUES

1. Opening presentations by the British and Irish 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. The question of institutional arrangements and provisions of any new agreement or structure.
5. Arrangements needed to implement, support and underwrite any new agreement or structure.
6. Report to Plenary.

STRAND TWO

SDLP SUBMISSION FOR COMPREHENSIVE AGENDA FOR ALL-PARTY NEGOTIATIONS

STRAND ONE

- a) Constitutional position of Northern Ireland
- b) New structures within Northern Ireland (Framework Document)
 - nature and extent of powers (e.g. legislative, executive, and/or administrative, transferred non-transferred).
 - structures (Assembly, Executive, Panel etc)
 - legal and structural safeguards
 - financial arrangements, fiscal powers etc
- c) Relationship with other institutions:
 - a) British Government i.e. transferred and non-transferred matters
 - b) Westminster i.e. legislative procedures
 - c) New North-South Structures
 - d) New Irish/British intergovernmental arrangements
 - e) European Union
- d) Justice matters:
 - a) Policing - policy structures, changes
 - b) Courts
 - c) Prison Issues
 - d) Legislation e.g. EPA, PTA, Public Order, Rules of Coroners' Inquest
- e) Human Rights
 - Bill of Rights
 - Communal rights issues
 - Minority Rights
- f) Fair Employment
- g) Parity of Esteem Issues including cultural matters

STRAND TWO

- a) North/South Body with consultative, harmonising and Executive powers
- b) Relationship of New North/South body to other structures i.e. British Government, Irish Government and the EU

- c) Political areas for North South co-operation (paras 31-34 of the Joint Framework Document)
- a) At Executive level e.g.
- sector involving a natural or physical all-Ireland framework
 - EU programmes and initiatives
 - marketing and promotional activities abroad
 - culture and heritage
- b) Harmonising level
- agriculture and fisheries
 - industrial development
 - consumer affairs
 - transport
 - energy
 - trade
 - health
 - social welfare
 - education
 - economic policy

STRAND THREE

- a) Possible new East/West structures.
- b) Models for East/West Co-operation (e.g. Nordic Council, Benelux arrangements)
- c) arrangements to implement new agreement or structure (e.g. referendum)
- d) Constitutional issues

Democratic Unionist Party

Strand One

Agenda

Chairman's Opening Statement

Opening Presentations from Participants

Responses to Opening Presentations

Realities and Underlying Principles

Constitutional Issues

Possible Institutional Arrangements

Law and Order Issues

The protection of Rights

Wider Relationships

Develop Contingent Agreements

Consent Principle, validation and endorsement of outcome