

DRAFT INCORPORATING

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16 September 1997 (17.45)

(but still not good

REVISED DRAFT PROCEDURAL MOTION

enough!)

Plenary:

(i) Acknowledges that the most urgent and important issue facing the people of Ireland, North and South and the British and Irish Governments together, is to remove the causes of conflict, to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted, recognising that the absence of a lasting and satisfactory settlement of relationships between the people of both islands has contributed to continuing tragedy and suffering;

(ii) Recalls that the purpose of the negotiations will be to achieve a new beginning for relationships within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the peoples of these islands, and to agree new institutions and structures to take account of the totality of relationships;

(iii) Re-affirms its commitment to the decision-making procedures for these negotiations set out in rules 30-36 of the Rules of Procedure agreed on 29 July 1996; and notes the reaffirmation by the British and Irish Governments that any agreed outcome will be subject to public approval in each jurisdiction by referendums, North and South, before being put to their respective Parliaments for ratification and the earliest possible implementation;

(iv) Adopts the following conclusions in respect of items 2 (a) - (c) of the agenda for the remainder of the opening Plenary;

- 2(a) Plenary agrees to adjourn discussion of this item to a subsequent Plenary, noting that not all delegations have had this matter addressed to their satisfaction;

Plenary welcomes the decision of the British and Irish Governments to appoint General de Chastelain as Chairman of the Independent Commission and agrees that Senator Mitchell, Prime Minister Holkeri and General de Chastelain should act as Joint Chairmen of Strand Two and that the Rules of Procedure shall be amended accordingly;

- 2(b) Plenary agrees that the resolution of the decommissioning issue is an indispensable part of the process of negotiation, alongside other confidence building measures;

All delegations are hereby committed to negotiate in good faith to secure the implementation of the compromise approach to decommissioning set out in the Report of the International Body;

They note with interest the view of the British and Irish Governments that they would like to see the decommissioning of some paramilitary arms during the negotiations, as progress is made in the political talks;

All delegations are committed to work constructively with the Independent Commission to enable it to carry out its role;

Plenary invites the Independent Commission to notify it of any case where the Commission considers that a participant has failed to engage properly with the Commission;

2(c) Plenary agrees to establish two sub-committees as follows:

(1) **Liaison Sub-Committee on Decommissioning**

A Liaison Sub-Committee of the Plenary on Decommissioning (the Committee) shall be established comprised of representatives of all the participants in the negotiations. It shall be jointly chaired by the Chairman of the Plenary and Prime Minister Holkeri, and will report regularly to Plenary.

The Committee will be charged with assisting the implementation of all aspects of decommissioning as set out in the Report of the International Body. In particular it will be required:

- to consider any legislative proposals by the Government, and any proposed regulations;
- to consider the type of scheme or schemes for decommissioning and the role of the Independent Commission in respect of same;
- to consider proposals for such schemes drawn up by the Independent Commission, and to submit any agreed opinion on the proposals for consideration by the Commission.

(2) **Liaison Sub-Committee on Confidence Building Measures**

A Liaison Sub-Committee on Confidence Building Measures (the Committee) shall be established comprised of representatives of all the participants in the negotiations. It shall be jointly chaired by the Chairman of the Plenary and Prime Minister Holkeri and will report regularly to the Plenary.

The Committee will be charged with assisting the implementation of all aspects of the Report of the International Body relating to the further confidence building measures mentioned in that Report which participants may raise, and any others which may be referred to by agreement by the Plenary. In particular it will be expected:

- to consider developments in relation to such measures;

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- to consider such reports on such measures as may be submitted by those with responsibility for the issue in question;
- to draw to the attention of the Chairman of the relevant strand any institutional or systemic implications which may arise from its consideration of particular confidence building measures.

(v) Agrees that item 3 of the agenda for the opening Plenary session should be resolved on the basis of the outlined proposals tabled on 15 October 1996 by the Ulster Unionist Party, the SDLP and the Alliance Party and set out in Annex 1 of this motion; accepts that, consistent with Rule 17, the participants may wish, by agreement to develop or refine the comprehensive agenda during the negotiations;

(vi) Hereby launches the three-stranded negotiations and invites the relevant Chairman to convene meetings in accordance with Rule 11, and agrees that the Business Committee should meet as required to coordinate the progress and procedures of the negotiations and to advise the Chairman on the timing and sequencing of meetings in the various strands;

(vii) Notes that the two Governments will complete the formal establishment of the Independent Commission on the adoption of this motion;

(viii) Invites the Chairman, following the adoption of this motion, to make his concluding remarks, thereby completing the agenda for the opening Plenary session of these negotiations;

(iv) Invites the Chairman, without prejudice to his powers under Rule 12, to convene further meetings at intervals of two months, or such longer period as may be agreed, in order to review and consider developments across the negotiations as a whole.