

The International Body

Meeting with John Hume, Social and Democratic Labor Party
(SDLP)

January 12, 1996

Dublin

Account of Meeting

Hume said the International Body would be crazy to endorse the idea of an elected assembly. The SDLP is completely opposed. That road was traveled twice before. An assembly is a way for the unionists to get what they want while giving up nothing. They want their institutions even before talks begin. That is a path to nowhere. The SDLP would have no problem with discussion of the possibility of an assembly within the context of three-stranded negotiations. The unionists want to delay, perhaps until the next Westminster election; their mindset has not moved at all.

The SDLP is the only major player that is not on a hook. It should not have to pay to get others off hooks.

Hume said he thought recommendations from the IB would carry considerable weight. The IB should not underestimate its potential influence.

Hume said he had discussed "phased decommissioning during all-party talks" with Gerry Adams. He agreed, although it will be difficult because the hardmen will balk.