

Tuesday 7 May 1991

Arrived at 9.30am. SOS met with SDLP at 10.30 for bilateral, and then with ALLIANCE followed by the UUP & DUP. This took us to lunchtime. No progress was made.

We raised the issue of press comments by the unionists.

Positions: SDLP insist on Ireland: Dublin or perhaps Armagh

ALLIANCE suggests Stormont but will accept anywhere as long as the practicalities can be resolved.

UNIONISTS insist on London. It cannot be Ireland because of Articles 2 & 3, and it cannot be NI because it is the disputed territory.

SDLP would contemplate an alternation of London & Dublin.

ALLIANCE suggests a meeting of party leaders on their own.

All the party groups had lunch in the dining room.

1.45pm SOS met with J Alderdice. Unionists refused meeting of four leaders. No changes. JA met informally with J Hume. He was frustrated, and felt he had already moved on coming to Stormont and on the alternation.

SOS met with Hume, and then with Molyneaux and Paisley. They then met with Hume, and again with the SOS. Still nothing.

Hume then met with SOS followed by Molyneaux and Paisley. JA had advised that we should continue to meet tonight until the matter was resolved. Hume disagreed, at least one unionist was agreeable. Alderdice met with SOS.

Day ended after 5.00pm with no agreement and no advances.