

RECORD OF A BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT TEAM AND THE ALLIANCE PARTY, HELD IN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS ON MONDAY 3 JUNE 1991

Government Team

Secretary of State
Minister of State
PUS
Mr Fell
Mr Pilling
Mr Thomas
Mr McNeill

Alliance Party

Mr Close
Mr Neeson
Mr McBride

Talks Secretariat

Mr D J R Hill
Mr Marsh

In attendance

Mr Pawson

The meeting began at 3.45 and ended at 4.00 pm.

2. The Government Team reported that the Unionists had submitted the names of nine potential chairmen for the second strand. These names, along with others, were currently being considered in consultation with the Irish; it was for the Unionists, if they wished, to put them to the other parties. It was the Government's intention to offer to the parties a single name agreed with the Irish. The Alliance Party took note.

3. On the procedural guidelines for the second strand, the Government Team reported that the Unionists were now considering Irish reactions to their suggested amendments. It was possible that they would respond later the same day. The Secretary of State would then seek to move to plenary sessions before a chairman for the second strand had been finally agreed. It was possible that the SDLP would regard the quality of the names proposed for the Chairmanship by the Unionists as sufficient indication that the Unionists were serious about the process to enable strand one plenaries to begin. The Alliance Party took note, and confirmed that they did not need to see the guidelines before the Unionists and the Irish had reached agreement on them.

4. The Government Team handed over a document on the staffing of the second strand. The Alliance Party undertook to consider it and respond as soon as possible.

5. The Alliance Party confirmed that they had formally accepted the workplan for the first strand; the Government Team took note.

TALKS SECRETARIAT