

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF DELEGATION MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 JULY 1992 AT
08.45 BEFORE PLENARY SESSION IN LANCASTER HOUSE, ST JAMES, LONDON

PRESENT: John Alderdice, Seamus Close, Addie Morrow, Sean
Neeson, Steve McBride, Eileen Bell, David Ford,
Ken Hull.

John Alderdice asked for views from those who were to attend this
mornings session.

Seamus Close - it is necessary to concentrate on Dublin. There
will be a lot of concentration on the Forum Report in their
docuement.

Addie Morrow - Agreed with Seamus that this would be the key
point of the exercise. SDLP paper is a reiteration and this is
an opportunity to find out the attitude of the Dublin Government.
Dublin will probably hand over to Civil Servants for the later
stages of the Strand. Dublin is vulnerable. It is questionable
whether or not they understand the Unionists and their paper is
based on Nationalist perceptions. They talk of sacrifices but
these appear to be one way and it will be necessary to see if
they are willing to sacrifice Articles 2 and 3 or Church/State
relations. There is a need to give the Unionists some
confidence.

Sean Neeson - Dublin is ignoring the emotionalism of the Unionist
cause. There is a danger of Alliance becoming or being perceived
to be too Unionist by the outside world. We should take the
opportunity to question HMG - SOS referes to "EC connection" - we
should explore this. We should also use the opportunity to
question Hume.

Eileen Bell - Dublin is helping Hume portray Alliance as Unionist
party - our identity is at risk. Need to hear Dublin's
conception of identity - do they agree with the SDLP or do they
recognise a "third" tradition. Need more specifics on HMG paper.
There have been lots of words - need more flesh.

Steve McBride - Dublin paper as expected. There needs to be a
push on Articles 2 and 3 and on what changes they feel they have
to make. There is a need to explore this with them and the
origins of AIA and how it has worked. Also should explore
situation with HMG.

David Ford - The Dublin paper when read is worse than it sounded
from Wilson's presentation.