

IN CONFIDENCE

MINUTE OF NINTH PLENARY MEETING OF STRAND 2 HELD AT
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, BELFAST, FRIDAY 24 JULY 1992

1. The draft minute of the eighth Plenary Meeting was agreed.
2. The Chairman reported that outcome of the meeting of delegation leaders that morning had been satisfactory and that the results would be discussed at the meeting of the Business Committee during the lunchtime adjournment.
3. A further discussion took place on the issue of the confidentiality of proceedings. A number of newspaper reports were brought to the attention of the Chairman. He reiterated his view that all leaks were to be deplored and emphasised the importance for the future of the talks of the strict adherence by all participants to the agreement on confidentiality.
4. At the opening of the afternoon session, the Chairman reported on the outcome of the meeting of the Business Committee.
5. Questioning of the UUP delegation on its opening presentation was concluded.
6. The future work programme for Strand 2 was approved (copy at Annex A).
7. At the request of the Chairman, delegations tabled their formal responses to the opening presentations. The UDUP then tabled a paper addressing Agenda Item 6.
8. A statement was agreed for issue to the media.

SIR NINIAN STEPHEN
Independent Chairman

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SUGGESTED FUTURE WORK PROGRAM

A. Consideration of Agenda Item 6

1. Following conclusion of the present stage of proceedings (presentations, questioning and responses) Plenary should, in a short session,
 - (a) fix 2 September as the date for the next Plenary session, to be preceded on 1 September by a meeting of the business committee
 - (b) give parties the opportunity, before Plenary adjourns for the summer recess, to specify the matters within Agenda Item 6 which are of particular interest to them
 - (c) invite papers from delegations addressing these matters, for initial consideration by the business committee at its meeting on 1 September
 - (d) fix noon on 28 August as the deadline for presentation of papers to the Chairman, who will arrange for distribution to delegations, (to facilitate circulation in advance of the business committee meeting).
2. The business committee, at its meeting on 1 September, would, following its initial consideration of papers, recommend to Plenary what might be the terms of Plenary's mandate to a committee that Plenary would constitute.
3. At its meeting on 2 September, Plenary might:
 - (a) receive a brief report from the business committee
 - (b) constitute a committee (say 3 delegates per delegation)
 - (c) refer the papers on Agenda Item 6 to that committee, with a mandate that would be guided by the business committee's report but would, in general terms, direct the committee to meet forthwith and:
 - (i) consider and discuss the papers; and
 - (ii) report back to Plenary on Agenda Item 6 within a specified time.

B. General

1. Plenary sessions to be held as appropriate in the course of the committee's consideration of papers and preparation of reports.
2. Full opportunity to be taken by the Chairman to confer from time to time with delegation leaders over sticking points which may emerge.