

The Secretary of State will confirm that on 11 June in Strand I we were deadlocked.

On morning of 12 June the 4 Party Leaders co-operated in a compromise which enabled Strand II to commence and 2 Governments to meet in Strand III. That formula was agreed and approved by the 2 Governments.

The effect was that 2 sovereign Governments were given 3 months ending on Saturday of this week to discuss and decide that a breach of international law be terminated, ie Territorial claim. The territorial claim should not really belong to this process.

It properly belongs to what we understand to be the unfinished business of 1985 - unfulfilled clause and undertaking which was clear in the mind of the British Cabinet Committee (which supervised the drafting of the Anglo Irish Agreement).

The two Governments have had seven years (and in an intensive form - 3 months) to do the necessary business.

This did not require

"finding a solution"
"Producing a form of words" or
"engaging in negotiations"

It requires a decision to terminate a breach of international law, in conflict with the Treaty of Rome and a breach of what is now standard United Nations practice.

We have to consider whether we are now damaging the whole process by continuing current arguments.

My reason for saying earlier that we are endangering whole process is related to the understanding that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. It follows that everything must be agreed by everyone ie - all six parties to the whole talks process - just as the Prime Minister is saying with regard to Denmark in the context of Maastricht - clearly as things are everyone is not here to agree - not to everything - but to anything.

Tomorrows Strand III meeting provides the opportunity for the two Governments to remove this longstanding obstacle.