

# Office of the Independent Chairmen

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16 September 1996

## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Participants

FROM: The Independent Chairmen

SUBJECT: Alliance Party Submission and Rebuttals: Subsequent Handling

The Independent Chairmen have received the attached from the two Governments. This note makes clear that the Governments have reached the view that it would be inappropriate for them to discuss, or to consider any further action in respect of, the Alliance representation against the PUP and UDP.

Given this view, we do not believe any useful purpose would be served by scheduling time for a debate on this representation - although we do intend to allocate time for debate on the other representations made by Alliance - first against the UUP and DUP; and then against the DUP on separate grounds.

However, the suggestion has been made that the separate Alliance Party representation against the DUP could involve matters which are **sub judice**. Legal advice is being sought on this issue as a matter of urgency. Until this advice is received, it is not possible to establish a precise timetable for the further handling of these matters in the Plenary. We expect that the position on **sub judice** will be clarified by the end of tomorrow (Tuesday).

Accordingly, we do not propose to schedule a Plenary session for Tuesday but urge participants to spend the time valuably in bilaterals. The Plenary will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday 18 September, when the Chairmen expect, subject to consultation with the participants, to be in a position to indicate that the debate on the Alliance representations can proceed, and to set out timings for that debate consistent with the precedents established in the handling of previous representations.

ALLIANCE PARTY SUBMISSION DATED 10 SEPTEMBER

Note by the British and Irish Governments

The two Governments consider that the Alliance representation against the PUP and UDP is no different in substance from one of the DUP representations which the Governments have already considered and determined, having had due regard to the views of all the participants. The Governments have therefore reached the view that it would be inappropriate for them to enter into renewed discussion and consideration of this matter, and that they should take no further action on it.

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