

Office of the Independent Chairmen

Castle Buildings Stormont Belfast BT4 3SG Northern Ireland
Telephone 01232 522957 Facsimile 01232 768905

MEMBERS

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 1997 AT 10.00AM

CHAIRMEN: General de Chastelain
Mr Holkeri

THOSE PRESENT: British Government
Irish Government
Alliance
Labour
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition
Progressive Unionist Party
Sinn Féin
Social Democratic and Labour Party
Ulster Democratic Party
Ulster Unionist Party

Item 1 - Minutes of 8 October Meeting

The minutes of the 8 October meeting were approved with one correction. In para 4.6 on page 3, the reference to para 4.4 should read 4.5.

Item 2 - Scheduling of Strand Negotiations Beyond 22 October

The Committee recommended that the scheduling of the Strand negotiations would return to Strand One on Monday and Strand Two on Tuesday for next week.

The Committee did not recommend any further scheduling of meetings beyond next week, but decided to meet again on Wednesday 29 October to discuss the merits of

continuing to work through the remaining agenda items in a preliminary manner per meeting, and then returning to them in detail later, or whether items could be combined into blocks of business covering one or more weeks.

The Committee noted that a Strand Three Liaison meeting (held under Rule 40) was likely to take place on Tuesday 28 October at 16.00. The next meetings of the Liaison subcommittees remained at the call of the Chair.

A summary of these points gave rise to the following schedule for the week commencing 27 October.

Strand One	Monday 27 October at 14.00
Strand Two	Tuesday 28 October at 10.00
Strand Three (Liaison)	Tuesday 28 October at 16.00
Business Committee	Wednesday 29 October at 10.30

The Chairman noted that no further indications of concern had been received about the level of representation at the various meetings and the Committee therefore recommended that no change should be made for the moment. The Committee agreed to review this issue as the negotiations developed.

Following discussions the Committee recommended that Strand Two meetings be held in Dublin and London as outlined in the Rules of Procedure, but agreed that an appropriate time for this had not yet been reached. The issue would be revisited, perhaps when it had been agreed that the Strand meetings move to weekly "block" meetings, or at the request of any participant.

Item 3 - Any Other Business

Following a point raised by Alliance, the Committee agreed that it might review, at its next meeting, the present starting time of 10.00 being changed to 10.30 for all future

morning meetings (including Strands and Business Committee) in order to help participants with their other commitments outside the talks.

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to meet again at 10.30am in Room 5.16 on Wednesday 29 October. Participants were reminded that "alternates" could be deployed if normal attendees had difficulties.

Independent Chairmen Notetakers
23 October 1997

bcmi/03/97