

# 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 4 FEBRUARY 1998 AT 1400

**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 Unionist Party

### Item 1 - Minutes of Previous Meetings (12, 14 & 20 January)

These were agreed.

### Item 2 - Arrangements for Visit to Dublin

The Irish Government said joining instructions had been issued and it was in contact with each of the participants regarding their needs etc.

### Item 3 - Scheduling Issues

The Committee recommended that the Strand One meeting on Monday 9 February should commence at 1030. A similar start time was recommended for the Strand Two meeting on Tuesday 10 February.

Following a lengthy discussion the Committee agreed to recommend to the Chairman of the Plenary that he should consult participants in order to bring forward a proposal to convene a sub group of the Plenary (comprising two plus two with the level of representation to be determined) to consider cross-strand issues as identified in the Comprehensive Agenda and any other issues which do not fall exclusively within any of the three strands with a view to meeting in the week commencing 23 February on a specific agenda to be agreed.

The Committee recommended that the Strand Two meeting in Dublin on Monday 16 February should commence at 1100; The Strand Two meeting on Tuesday should commence at 1000 and a Strand Three Liaison meeting should commence at 1000 on Wednesday 18 February. The Committee recommended that all business should be concluded by 1700 on that day.

The Committee further recommended that the same level of representation at meetings should apply in Dublin as had been the case for London. The Irish Government said some evening social events were in the planning stage for 16 and 17 February and further details would follow in due course.

The Committee also recommended that a meeting of the Liaison Sub-committee on Confidence Building Measures take place on Wednesday 25 February at 1030. It was recommended that that afternoon at 1430 would see the next meeting of the Liaison Sub-committee on Decommissioning. The Chairman agreed to consult the Chairmen of Strands One and Two with regard to the scheduling of those meetings in the week commencing 23 February.

#### **Item 4 - Any Other Business**

The British Government indicated that it would be hosting a working breakfast for the President of the European Union, Jacques Santer, in Castle Buildings on Tuesday 3 March to which participating delegations would be invited.

It was agreed that participants, if they so wished, could inform other participants of their accommodation details in Dublin in advance.



**Item 5- Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting should be at the call of the Chair but no later than 1700 on Wednesday 18 February.

**Independent Chairmen Notetakers  
5 February 1998**

BC.mi.04/98