

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

D4 MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE AND ALLIANCE DELEGATION HELD
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM THURS. 9/5/91 at 4pm

PRESENT----- SOS PETER BROOKE, MINISTER OF STATE BRIAN
MAWHINNEY, NIO OFFICIALS LONDON AND BELFAST

ALLIANCE-----JOHN ALDERDICE, SEAMUS CLOSE, SEAN NEESON,
STEWART DICKSON, ADDIE MORROW, EILEEN BELL, STEVE MC BRIDE.

SOS thanked us for waiting patiently through the day whilst he was engaged in discussions with the Unionists and SDLP delegations and then gave a summary of these meetings thus far. SDLP were prepared to accept the SOS's proposal as outlined yesterday with certain "LANGUAGE" amendments---Strand 2 opening meeting in London then further meetings in N.I. at a location to be determined(possibly Armagh but not Stormont). They also sought and got confirmation that nothing would be agreed until everything was agreed and there will be, if necessary, opportunity to go back to earlier strands. They also confirmed that Europe was still a non-starter from a practical viewpoint.

JOINT UNIONISTS presented a written amendment to the SOS a copy of which the PL had intimated to the SOS we had received at an informal meeting with the joint Unionist leaders wherein they stated that after the opening meeting of Strand 2 in London there would be a move to a neutral venue(outside UK and ROI)with a transitional meeting in Dublin between Stands 2 and 3. SOS also expressed concern that the delegation brought up other matters other than the question of venue ie who would chair Strand 2? He asked the Unionist leaders if they had a hidden agenda especially in relation to Articles 2 and 3 and he

was assured that this was not the case. The SOS said that he would, in the light of these difficulties, have to consult with the Dublin Govt. and report back :he would reflect himself over the weekend and hoped to start discussions again at 10:30 on Monday morning. If there was no obvious movement then he would himself put forward final proposals which if accepted would mark a way forward, if not there would be a lot of "rubbish" to clear up.

Party Leader then reported more fully on the informal meeting with the Unionists . Sean then asked if they would like to put a few thoughts on paper re the issue of chairing Strand 2. SOS said that would be helpful. Party Leader then concluded by saying that we would reflect over the weekend but that our position would not be a bargaining one and we would keep our stance that the priority for us will always be the talks and not the venue.