

J.A.

POLITICAL TALKS

Practical Issues Concerning Strands Two and Three

1. There has been extensive discussion of the venue for strand two, and other related practical questions, over the last two weeks.
2. In the light of that, with the benefit of the views expressed, and after close consultation with the Irish Government, I have decided to indicate the basis on which these talks would be held.

Strand Two

3. All meetings of strand two will have an independent chairman whose identity will be announced by the two governments after consultation with other participating parties.
4. Opening plenary meeting of strand two to be held in London.
5. Bulk of substantive exchanges in strand two to be held in Northern Ireland in a location to be determined. (It will of course also be open to the Chairman and the participants to hold non-plenary meetings wherever suits their mutual convenience.)
6. A plenary meeting of the strand two discussions to be held in Dublin towards the end of June.

Strand Three

7. While participating parties remain free to discuss strand three issues with the governments, strand three discussions will be concerned with the relationship between the two governments, and will take place between the two governments:

- other participating parties will be kept in touch with progress during strand three by regular liaison
- the two governments will meet other participating parties at their request for further discussion of strand three issues while strand three is taking place

- the outcome of strand three will be considered by all the participants alongside the outcome of the other two strands and nothing will be finally agreed in any strand until everything is agreed in the talks as a whole.

8. The strand one formation or the strand two formation, as appropriate, may consider issues further in the light of progress in strand three.

Strand Two

1. All meetings of groups will be held in independent chambers where identity will be maintained by the use of pseudonyms after consultation with other participants before meeting.

2. Opening plenary meeting of strand two to be held in London.

3. Work of consultative committee to remain the same as set up in Northern Ireland in a liaison with the Government. The work of strand two also to open to the Government and the participants to find non-plenary meetings convenient with their mutual convenience.

4. A plenary meeting of the strand two discussions to be held in Dublin towards the end of June.

Strand Three

7. While participating parties remain free to discuss strand three issues with the Government, strand three discussions will be conducted with the relationship between the two Governments, and will take place between the two Governments.

Other participating parties will be kept in touch with progress during strand three by regular liaison.

The two Governments will meet upon participating parties at their request for further discussion of strand three issues while strand three is being held.