

I N C O N F I D E N C E

RECORD OF A PLENARY MEETING HELD IN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
ON WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 1991

<u>Government Team</u>	<u>Alliance Party</u>	<u>UDUP</u>
Secretary of State*	Dr Alderdice	Dr Paisley
Minister of State	Mr Close	Mr Robinson
PUS	Mr Neeson	Rev McCrea
Mr Fell	Mr Morrow	Mr Gibson
Mr Pilling	Mr Dickson	Mr Wilson
Mr Thomas	Mrs Bell	Miss Paisley
Mr McNeill	Mr McBride	Mr Campbell
<u>Talks Secretariat</u>	<u>SDLP</u>	<u>UDUP</u>
Mr Hill	Mr Hume	Mr Molyneaux
Mr Watson	Mr Mallon	Mr Cunningham
	Mr McGrady	Mr Smyth
<u>Also present</u>	Mr Haughey	Mr Allen
Mr Pawson	Mr Maginness	Mr Empey
	Mr McClelland	Mr Wilson
	Mr Feely	

* For part of meeting

A plenary meeting of Strand One of the Talks took place at Parliament Buildings between 16.10 and 17.11 on 19 June.

2. The Government Team was led by its deputy for the first 15 minutes of the session.

3. Before substantive discussion began, the SDLP asked the Government Team through the acting Chairman, to withdraw an earlier statement which they had made concerning an article in that day's copy of the Irish Press. The comments attributed to the alleged "SDLP source" were totally inaccurate which confirmed that the source could not have been an SDLP delegate. The Government Team noted this.

4. During Alliance Party clarification of the UDUP presentation, the following main points were made:-

- (i) page 2, paragraph 1: The statement "The IRA cannot be defeated by political measures alone" represented the UDUP's considered position that

other factors such as enhanced security measures were more important in the defeat of terrorism.

- (ii) page 3, paragraph 2: The term "the Roman Catholic IRA" was simply a reflection of how the UDUP viewed the Roman Catholic church's position on Republican terrorists. This was not the same as the Protestant church's view of Loyalist violence.
- (iii) page 3, last sentence: The UDUP confirmed that they were concerned about the present status of some of the agreed positions having been entered into with both Governments at the beginning of the process. One such example given was the disclosure of the timing of Sir Ninian Stephen's introduction as Chairman which suggested to the UDUP that timetabling decisions had already been taken on a different basis to those originally agreed.
- (iv) page 5, paragraph 2: The UDUP confirmed that the term "foreign government" was being used in the legal and the colloquial sense, accepting that for the purposes of certain UK legislation the Republic was not treated as a foreign country.
- (v) pages 10-11: (First paragraph of indented quotes). The UDUP confirmed that they could accept the statement presented by the Secretary of State on 5 July as an accurate description of the constitutional status of Northern Ireland, (though they did not accept the later thought that Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution should not be a major preoccupation). In analysing the phrase "the principles of democracy and self-determination", the UDUP confirmed that it was "the people" of Northern Ireland (as a body) and only they who should decide the future status of the Province.

- (vi) page 14, paragraph 2: second sentence. The UDUP confirmed that they, as a party, were looking for significant structural developments in terms of the highest form of devolution available, including security powers.
- (vii) Page 17, paragraph 1, ninth sentence. In presenting clarification on the phrase "including its proposed institutionalised Council of Ireland" the UDUP stated that further proposals would be tabled which would develop this theme. However, the UDUP believed that any such structure must be formed by elected representatives in a devolved administration rather than individuals appointed or imposed by a sovereign government. In further discussion of the phrase "ill-fated Power Sharing As-of-Right Executive", the UDUP acknowledged that this did not necessarily imply an objection to power-sharing by virtue of a voluntary coalition.
- (viii) page 22, final paragraph: The UDUP confirmed their position that certain powers would need to be given over to any new structure over and above those which the present Government might be willing to offer.

5. The Government Team, in bringing the session to a close, referred to a number of outstanding procedural issues. They confirmed that the first session on 24 June would provide an opportunity for the SDLP to seek clarification of the UDUP position paper. Secondly, in reference to the Renewal Debate in the House on the following day, the Government Team commented that they saw some value in those present saying less rather than more about the present phase of Talks. A draft Press statement covering the events of the day was agreed.

6. The UDUP commented that they were most unhappy about attempting to hold the content of their position paper over the

weekend, given the prospect of concerted media attention etc. After a brief discussion it was agreed that delegations should be free to publish their own presentations.

7. The SDLP then returned to their opening remarks about the Irish Press article and sought a withdrawal of earlier comments made by the Government Team. The Government Team, following further consideration of the issue, accepted the point made but said it was largely a matter between the Party and the author of the commentary.

8. On a final point, the UDUP raised the question of intensifying the Talks process, and sought clarification as to why it was not possible to work on and extend the current session. The Government Team referred the UDUP to an earlier decision of the Business Committee which had agreed to an intensification of the process the following week.

9. The Government Team concluded the session by inviting everyone to be present at 10.30 am on 24 June to continue the business in hand.

TALKS SECRETARIAT