BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING: 9 MARCH 1992

Government Team	Alliance	UDUP
Minister of State	Mr Morrow	Mr Robinson
Mr Thomas	Mr Neeson	Mr Vitty
Mr Bell		

Talks Secretariat	SDLP	UUP
Mr May	Mr Farren	Mr Cunningham
	Mr Haughey	Mr Empey

The meeting began at 16.15 and concluded at 16.35.

2.   The Government Team opened by asking the party delegations to
confirm that whilst Strand One discussions would normally take
place in Belfast, when mutually convenient, they might be moved to
London.   There was no objection in principle to this flexibility.

3.   The delegations also agreed that the format of the previous
Talks with three people at the table and four behind for plenary
sessions would be retained and that the normal working week would
run from Monday to Wednesday, although flexibility to go beyond
that was available if the delegations agreed it would be useful.

4.   The Government Team asked whether the delegations would be
prepared to work on to the middle of August if a gap of that length
could be agreed by the two Governments.   The SDLP delegation said
this should be a last resort as delegates would need a holiday by
July, but all delegations agreed that the talks could proceed into
August if required.   The delegations also agreed that, if the two
Governments found it acceptable, the four delegations could agree
to ask for the Inter Governmental Conference following the gap to
be moved.

5.   The Government Team, turning to the workplan for Strand One,
commented that items 1-6 had now been completed. After discussion,
it was agreed some further discussion on item 6 might be useful,
and the Government team agreed to table a paper to the party
delegations drawing together the common themes emerging from the
submissions put to the previous Talks process by each of the
parties. This paper would focus discussion for the plenary
meetings after the election, and might lead to areas of work being
identified which could best be remitted to sub-committees.

TALKS SECRETARIAT

TALKS/PM/RN/8319