

FILE NOTE

Friday 16 September 1994, 16.55

Phone call from Walter Kirwan, Dept of the Taoiseach, responding to my letter faxed previous day.

He was Secretary of New Ireland Forum, same role in Forum for P&R

Martin Mansergh (currently in Far East with Taoiseach for 2 wks) looking after 'political' side, including:

Terms of reference

Proportionality

Relations with 'certain parties'

Kirwan looking after practical points, including:

What is Forum to do - the political agenda

How to start Forum's business *in the first six weeks or so*

Overall purposes: inc. draw in SF,
reassure Unionists

Identify & tease out issues like
pluralism,
parity of esteem,
reconciliation

Approaches to groups and general public re submissions

Replies to points in my letter:

Size of delegation - outside his field

Timetable - accepts practical need for diaries to be cleared
but others (FG & DL) want delay to encourage
Unionists to attend

Support - meetings in Dublin Castle initially, *NI later?*
plenty of room available
- New Ireland Forum had 1 paid staff per party
at least one for Forum for P&R

Research - NIF hired consultants for all, he was positive to
resources for each party & access to facilities

Kirwan suggested that an early meeting with SC and self would be appropriate and offered to come to Belfast. I agreed to look at diaries and have him contacted next week re week after.