

FORUM FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS HELD AT DUBLIN CASTLE
ON MAY 12, 1995

Chairperson: Judge Catherine McGuinness

I hereby certify the following to be a true and accurate transcript of my shorthand notes of the above-named proceedings.

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MR. SEAMUS CLOSE: Thank you. Page 16 where your references to the necessity for dialogue, and you say that the Church of Ireland encourages dialogue, but it is not just an ordinary dialogue it is dialogue as you state which involves listening to other persons and groups and trying to understand their particular point of view.

And then on page 19 where you refer to the suspicion, fear and lack of confidence in the peace process, referring specifically to the Framework document and also the Forum of Peace and Reconciliation. Do you not share my view and the view of the members of this Forum that the best way to allay fears, to allay

suspensions and to build up confidence in the peace process is by doing the very things you would encourage, namely dialogue and listening?

And therefore my question is what more can you do to encourage members of your flock, indeed of your Synod to do the things you are suggesting, by getting involved in dialogue and by perhaps even considering joining us in the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation?

And my other point is on page 20 where you refer to local government, and I am not going to comment on the quality or otherwise of people involved in local government having been there and still for 23 years, but rather it is the way in which you approach the necessity or otherwise for powers to be devolved or given to local governments, are you suggesting per chance that that should happen now, in advance of an offer all settlement and in a way are you maybe perhaps thinking of putting the cart before the horse? Thank you.