

Drafting CommitteeBackground Note for Members on Revised Chairperson/Secretariat Draft on "Present Realities"

1. A revised draft of the Document F6/DC ("Present Realities") has been prepared by the Chairperson/Secretariat and is attached. Taking account of the comments of Delegations at and since the last meeting of the Drafting Committee on 9 June, it differs from the original draft in the following main ways:
 - We have added a Preamble which seeks to set out more clearly the context and purpose of the document.
 - We have given the overall document the same title as the book recently launched in Belfast (latter was based on papers on the nature of the problem; the document we are currently drafting is in essence a follow-up of those papers).
 - The Preamble proposes that the realities include only a limited treatment of the history of the conflict; the basis for this approach - suggested by a number of Delegations - is that there is no common analysis of history and if there is an insistence that one be established before moving on, the likely outcome is paralysis of dialogue. The Preamble recognises that such an approach is problematic in terms of a comprehensive analysis of the realities which need to be addressed, but seeks to argue why at this juncture it may be the preferable option - not least having regard to recent international experience (eg Middle East).
 - The section "Present Realities" has been considerably shortened from the first draft bearing in mind the injunction from most parties that the original text needed to be "tightened up" and "crisper".
 - We propose ordering the paragraphs alphabetically in order to distinguish more clearly from the opening draft. On balance, we propose also that the headings be dropped - their inclusion in the first place was largely a matter of shorthand.
 - Paragraphs (a) and (b) are new and reflect calls from a number of parties that we needed to root the opening realities more firmly in the present.
 - Thereafter, the order roughly follows the order of the original draft, with one instance where we have run two paragraphs together. Taking account of the "limited history" approach and the need to tighten up, paragraphs 3, 8, 9 and 10 of the original draft are dropped (the latter three being the definitions of the nationalist, unionist and "third strand" identities).
 - As well as a general tightening up, a number of paragraphs have been recast to take account of substantive points made by Delegations.
2. For ease of reference, the attached sheet shows the linkage in paragraph terms between

the original and revised drafts.

3. Given the wide spread of comments received from Delegations, it is clear that the revised draft will not fully meet every concern raised by every Delegation. Nonetheless it represents the best efforts of the Chairperson/Secretariat to establish the closest approximation to common ground between Delegations at present, as we understand it.

Chairperson/Secretariat
11 July 1995

Relationship between Original Draft F6/DC and the Revised Draft F6/DC Rev 1

Original (F6/DC)

Revised (F6/DC Rev 1)

Preamble New

"Present Realities"

Paragraphs

Paragraphs

(a) and (b) new

1.

(c)

2.

(d)

3.

Dropped

(e) new

4.

(f)

5.

(g)

6.

(h)

7.

(i)

8, 9, 10.

Dropped

11.

(j)

12.

(k)

13.

(l)

14,15.

Combined as (m)

16.

(n)

(o) new

17.

(p)

18.

(q)

Note Taking account of the changes that have been made, it is suggested that a re-ordering of the sequence of a number of the paragraphs would be appropriate and could be incorporated into a subsequent re-draft.