

## AGENDA FOR NEGOTIATIONS

## 1. A NEW NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

One Chamber or two, method of election, legislative/administrative, subjects to be transferred and how quickly (see security below)

Devolution provides the right framework for all citizens of Northern Ireland to work together. Only devolution has substantial support right across our divided community. In order to give this body significance and impact, and to attract responsible people into participation it should have both legislative and executive functions.

## 2. EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

The method of selection and modus operandi of those who take executive responsibility.

Majority and minority representatives must work and build together at the highest level of Government.

## 3. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

There must be effective participation by elected representatives in the scrutinising of the operation of the Executive.

## 4. TEST OF ACCEPTABILITY

Any new administration must be widely accepted if it is to work. There may need to be an institutional definition of acceptability.

## 5. CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS

All citizens must be confident that their essential civil and political rights will be protected.

## 6. CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

Cross-border co-operation over issues of joint interest, and especially economic development, is ever more crucial to the well-being of citizens throughout the island. A clear institutional definition is now required.

## 7. ANGLO-IRISH CONTEXT

Good working arrangements with both London and Dublin are essential for a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland. Relationships with London and Dublin may need clearer redefinition.

8. SECURITY CONTROL

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Any political accommodation will come under threat from terrorists, and paramilitaries. The question of security control will be a difficult one, but it is hard to see how a local administration could retain credibility without an input to the control of security. Full control however raises enormous and possibly initially terminal questions.

9. RELATIONS IN EUROPE

As part of an increasingly integrated Europe the people of Northern Ireland should have their interests represented, in so far as is possible, by their own elected politicians.

10. THE PERMANENCE OF ANY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT

If it is not publicly accepted by all parties to the agreement as having foreseeable permanence, then it has reduced stability.

*Dublin instrument -*

*in the conference + talks or 2 conferences or 1 conference*

*- Does the conference talk to Dublin -*

*The instrument of Dublin makes this document out-of-date.*

*- Explain the framework on the Dublin instrument.*

ALLIANCE PROPOSES the transfer of power over Economy, Education, Finance, Health and Social Services, Agriculture and Environment to a new Northern Ireland Assembly. There would be a consultative role on security.

ALLIANCE PROPOSES A PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE based on the strength of the Assembly Parties, but excluding those who support violence.

ALLIANCE PROPOSES back-bench COMMITTEES with membership based on the proportionate strength of Parties in the Assembly.

ALLIANCE PROPOSES a TEST OF ACCEPTABILITY with a WEIGHTED MAJORITY requirement in the Assembly for the new Executive.

ALLIANCE PROPOSES a BILL OF RIGHTS and also a RIGHT OF APPEAL to Westminster for aggrieved minorities, which would require 30% support within the Assembly.

ALLIANCE PROPOSES that for devolved matters, the new Executive negotiate whatever arrangements are necessary for CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION.

ALLIANCE PROPOSES a new three-way ANGLO-IRISH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY providing rights of consultation between Belfast, London and Dublin over matters of mutual concern.

We would therefore propose that meetings should take place for three days each week. This could be either Monday through Wednesday or Monday, Wednesday, Friday. We would suggest times of 10.00 - 12.30, and 2.00 - 5.30, with the possibility of continuing on into the evening should this be agreed by the participants.

OR We propose meetings on four half days each week, Monday to Thursday, from 2.30pm to 5.30pm each day, with the facility to continue on into the evening if agreed amongst the participants.

Situation of MP's and MEP's on absences.

When does Dublin come into things.

What happens if there is an agreement amongst the four parties, but disagreement with HMG, what is the position for the chairman?

Will the Chairman be relaying the information about the confidential proceedings of the conference to Dublin all the time? Is this a problem?

#### DUBLIN INVOLVEMENT

Will there be two conferences or one to which Dublin will be invited. Will Belfast go to Dublin or will Dublin go to Belfast, (and where) or will both go to London or elsewhere? The whole issue to some extent makes our old agenda out-of-date.

ALLIANCE TEAM FOR POSSIBLE CONFERENCE

Study Group

John Alderdice  
Gordon Mawhinney  
Dan McGuinness  
Patrick Bell  
Paul Maguire

Press Officer

John Montgomery

General Secretary

David Ford

Strategy Committee

John Alderdice  
Gordon Mawhinney  
Tom Campbell  
Stewart Dickson  
Addie Morrow  
Seamus Close  
Sean Neeson  
Paul Maguire  
Jim Hendron  
Steve McBride  
Mervyn Jones  
Ciaran McAteer  
Dan McGuinness

Talks with SOS

John Alderdice  
Gordon Mawhinney  
Seamus Close  
Dan McGuinness  
Addie Morrow

Possible Assemblymen

John Alderdice  
Gordon Mawhinney  
Sean Neeson  
Seamus Close  
Gareth Williams  
Stewart Dickson  
Billy McKimmon  
Trevor Strain  
Brian Wilson  
Donald Hayes  
Steve McBride  
John Montgomery  
Danny Dow  
Addie Morrow  
Dan McGuinness  
Eileen Bell  
Fionnuala Cook  
William Ramsey  
Henry Dunleath

Other useful people

John Campbell  
David Cook  
Alec Boyd  
Oliver Napier

SUGGESTED TEAM

John Alderdice  
Gordon Mawhinney  
Sean Neeson

Addie Morrow  
Seamus Close  
an other

David Ford       ) Secretariat  
John Campbell   )

+ Strategy for daily consultations