

## ULSTER DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY

At the outset we must emphasise that this is not a meeting of the Strand II formation but simply a meeting at which a possible agenda will be discussed which may tentatively form the basis of the ultimate agenda of Strand II "should that ever come to pass" to quote you yourself Sir Ninian. (Letter to Dr Paisley of 16 June.)

The Ulster Democratic Unionist Party wants at this stage to put on the record why they are attending this meeting. The reason is set out in our letter to the Secretary of State of 15 June and I quote "I must put on the record that the only reason for the proposal to have an informal meeting to seek to suggest the agenda for talks in Strand II was on the request of Mr Hume. He stated that if on the Agenda of Strand 2 there was to be an opportunity for him to ascertain whether he would be able to deal with his problems of identity then he would be able to withdraw his reservations on the document that the other parties agreed for institutions of government within Northern Ireland. In the discussions with him the unionists said that they would tell him honestly if agenda items he wanted could be negotiated in a way to meet his objections or not. Then he would be in a position to withdraw his reservations or continue to oppose the general agreement of the other three parties. On the other hand the unionists were keen to have Strand III commenced so that for their part they could see clearly demonstrated the attitude of HMG to Articles 2 & 3 of the Republic's constitution and the South's intention to try and destroy the Union as set out in the Government of Ireland

Act 1920. These matters were clearly stated before you and agreed by all the Party Leaders."

That is the purpose of our being here this morning.

We will listen very carefully to all the proposals put forward this morning and we will give them the greatest of attention.

The unionist leaders hope to have discussions with the two other party leaders Mr Hume and Dr Alderdice after this meeting and after the Strand III meeting which I understand is to take place on Tuesday next.

We also wish to put on record that it was agreed that the first of the Strand II meetings would take place in London under your Chairmanship Sir Ninian and that the illegal claim of the Irish Republic in its constitution to the territory of part of Her Majesty's United Kingdom, namely Northern Ireland, would be raised by unionists.

The unionist position is clear and plain. The Union is not negotiable. Strand I of this talks process is about seeking institutions for the good government of the province firmly within the United Kingdom. As unionists we have no trade-offs to do with the Irish Republic in order to bring about the removal of her illegal, offensive and anachronistic territorial claims.