

DRAFT COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 6:  
"FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM: UNDERLYING  
REALITIES; IDENTITY; ALLEGIANCE; CONSTITUTIONAL"

At its meeting on 2 September, Plenary agreed to constitute a committee to consider and report on issues arising under Agenda Item 6 in order to facilitate consideration of the common desire of the people of the island of Ireland for a new relationship, of the obstacles in the path of satisfying that desire and of the ways in which those obstacles might be overcome. It was agreed that the committee should comprise four members from each delegation.

The committee was instructed by Plenary to consider Agenda Item 6 in the light of the papers prepared on that item (which had been circulated on 28 August) and any other relevant papers tabled or statements made in the course of the talks and report progress to a Plenary meeting on the afternoon of Thursday, 10 September. This report has been prepared in response to Plenary's request.

The committee began its deliberations on the afternoon of 2 September by considering procedural matters. It was agreed that speaking rights would be accorded to two delegates per delegation, that no record would be taken of the committee's proceedings and that committee reports

would be prepared by a small drafting group consisting of one nominee per delegation. Subsequent meetings were held on 3, 9 and 10 September.

The committee quickly established that there was a common desire among all parties for a new relationship among ~~the people of the island of Ireland~~, but that there were numerous obstacles in the path of satisfying that desire. The parties tabled papers identifying the obstacles as they saw them [(copies at Annex <sup>A</sup>)]?

The committee did not reach unanimous agreement on the order in which these obstacles should be considered, together with ways in which they might be overcome. The UDUP delegation dissented from <sup>the chairman's point</sup> a proposal, which was, <sup>on a show of</sup> ~~supported~~ <sup>lands, accepted</sup> by the other delegations, that the obstacles be considered under four general headings which are set out ~~in the agenda~~ at Annex <sup>and</sup> B. Subsequently, the UDUP formally recorded their opposition to the proposed order of business on the basis that it failed to accord priority to the issue of the "territorial claim". The leader and deputy leader of the UDUP delegation withdrew from the committee and indicated they would not return until this issue came to be addressed. <sup>They indicated that two non-residing members of this delegation would remain</sup>  
<sup>The committee subsequently reaffirmed its commitment to the people.</sup>  
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<sup>of</sup> The committee completed <sup>consideration</sup> of item 1 on the attached agenda. It began its discussions by debating <sup>the</sup> general principles which might underlie any arrangements made to remedy the perceived lack of

adequate channels of communication and co-operation between the two parts of Ireland. The attached list of *Some draft* principles (Annex *6*) *is* offered for consideration by Plenary, *the list is not exhaustive.*

There was agreement on the need for *Structured* institutional arrangements to facilitate the desired north-south communication and cooperation. *[* Agriculture, energy, customs, tourism, access to EC funding, export marketing and fisheries were among the matters mentioned by delegations as fruitful areas for enhanced co-operation. *]* *A wide range of matters was* The committee noted, after some useful discussion on the *structured* form *institutional* arrangements might take, that this *matter* would be discussed in detail under Agenda Item 9 ("Possible institutional arrangements to meet the requirements (including principles to govern such arrangements)"). *that the*

[discussion on agenda item 2?]

The Committee has not fully discharged its remit and recommends that Plenary:

- a. authorise the Committee to continue its work within the terms agreed on 2 September;
- b. consider the merits of the Committee taking into consideration matters arising under other later agenda items

c. request a further report to be made to a Plenary meeting to be held in Dublin, commencing at 11.30 am on Monday, 21 September