

The two Governments would make a statement that the next meeting of the Conference was to be fixed for a future date (to be stated in the announcement) sufficiently far in advance to facilitate discussion involving the major constitutional political parties in Northern Ireland.

Having made that statement, Tom King would invite the political leaders in Northern Ireland into his office to ask them to enter into discussions and he would be in a position to confirm to the Unionist Leaders that on that day that the two Senior Civil Servants were not at their post. It was further agreed that in the event of them having to return to their post at any time during the period of the discussions, their return would be handled in a sensitive way so as not to cause any embarrassment to the politicians involved in talks and not to bring about a break-down of those talks. The only way to deal with this sensitivity was to say nothing about the fact of their reappearance.

It was agreed that each of the four representatives would go back to their parties and canvass that proposition with their parties and in the event that it was successful arrangements would be made to implement the agreement and to move talks forward.

Austin Currie agreed that if the proposition found favour in his Party he would also suggest that the proposition

be put to the Dublin Government by the SDLP because it was accepted by all that the Dublin Government would not move without the agreement of the SDLP.

It was agreed that private talks could be taking place between the parties and the Governments during the period of the Review so that the groundwork was complete by the time the Review was ended.

It was agreed that insofar as it was possible the parties would not say or do anything which would make the situation more difficult for the other parties involved in the intervening period although it was accepted that this was not entirely possible in view of the fact that only a small number of people would be aware of the terms of the Agreement.