

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

D04

DELEGATION MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 MAY AT 3.00PM IN STORMONT.

PRESENT: John Alderdice, Seamus Close, Sean Neeson, Addie Morrow, Stewart Dickson, Steve McBride, Eileen Bell, David Ford, Philip McGarry, Paul Maguire.

SOS's paper on 'Practical issues concerning Strands 2 & 3' was circulated.

Points for clarification.

Is this all agreed with Dublin?

Para 3 With independent chairman, what is the role of SOS and what is his relationship to N.I. parties.

Who might be considered as chairman; grounds for exclusion; meaning of 'consultation' with other participating parties.

When do we know who the chair is to be?

Para 5 Location determined by whom; Chairman to hold non-plenary meetings - on what basis does he go where - is it his discretion alone?

Is the Chairman (a) already known
(b) agreed with Dublin?

Para 7 Meaning of 'regular liaison' re Strand 3; location of strand 3 creates problems re liaison. Will two governments meet other parties together or separately? Where will governments meet, where will governments meet other parties?

Final Meeting

What strand is final meeting part of: 1, 2 or 3?
Where does it take place, who chairs it, what format?

Unionists are probably obliged to accept this if they are serious - SDLP gain some advantages re independent chair. This paper appears to resolve problems by postponing them.

Members noted the importance of confidentiality if talks do get started. There were concerns that participants might concentrate on future issues (e.g. chair of strand 2) rather than on strand 1 business.