

I N C O N F I D E N C E

FROM: D J R HILL  
Talks Secretariat  
Room 4  
26 June 1991

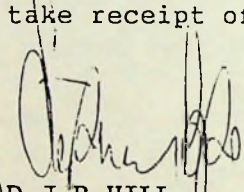
Dr J Alderdice  
Room 12

PLENARY MEETING : <sup>24</sup>25 JUNE 1991

I attach a copy of the record of the meeting which took place on 25 June between the Government team and representatives of the Alliance Party, the SDLP, the UDUP and the UUP.

2. These will, of course, remain confidential.

3. I hope you agree that they constitute a fair and accurate record. If there are any material inaccuracies I should be glad to take receipt of suggested amendments.

  
D J R HILL  
PB Ext 2591

I N C O N F I D E N C E

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RECORD OF A PLENARY MEETING HELD IN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
ON TUESDAY 25 JUNE 1991

Government Team

Secretary of State  
Minister of State  
Mr Fell

Mr Pilling  
Mr Thomas  
Mr McNeill

Alliance Party

Dr Alderdice  
Mr Close  
Mr Neeson

Mrs Bell  
Mr McBride  
Mr Morrow  
Mr Dickson

UDUP

Dr Paisley  
Mr Robinson  
Rev McCrea

Mr Dodds  
Mr Vitty  
Mr Wilson  
Mr Campbell

Talks Secretariat

Mr D J R Hill  
Mr Marsh

SDLP

Mr Hume  
Mr Mallon  
Mr McGrady

UUP

Mr Molyneaux  
Mr Nicholson  
Mr Empey

Also present

Mr Pawson

Mr Feely  
Mr Gallagher  
Mr Haughey  
Mr Farren

Mr Trimble  
Mr McGimpsey  
Mr Wilson

A plenary meeting of Strand One of the Talks took place in Parliament Buildings between 12.05 and 12.55 pm on 25 June. It had before it the Alliance Party's response paper which had been tabled at the Business Committee earlier that morning and which dealt with a future programme for the talks.

2. The Government Team rehearsed the background to the paper and asked for views.

3. The SDLP said that they wished to discuss the whole question of a deadline. They had however read the paper carefully and had serious doubts as to its practicality. It completely re-wrote the agenda which had been agreed and compressed the process to an unacceptable extent. It was outwith the terms of reference of the Business Committee; it concerned people not present at the meeting and proposed an alternative means of moving from the first to the second strands. If there was a problem with the date of the next Conference meeting, the two Governments should announce a second gap; this would involve no point of principle for the Unionists. They also considered that the discussion of unsolicited papers set a dangerous precedent.



4. The UUP said that they regarded the paper as an amendment to the Unionists' paper of the previous day. They broadly agreed with its proposals for increasing the hours worked and for setting up sub-groups. But the Business Committee should be tasked to discuss precise timings and phasing.

5. The DUP observed that it had always been a Unionist principle that negotiations could not take place while the Conference was meeting. They had agreed to one interval between Conference meetings; they had already made clear that 10 weeks was too short. And now there had been considerable delays. The Intergovernmental Conference meeting scheduled for 16 July should be postponed for 2 weeks. If it was necessary to conduct business with the Irish while the talks were taking place, the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Council could be used as a channel. The Alliance paper went against the terms of the 26 March statement in that it proposed a definite time for the transition between the first and second strands.

6. The Alliance Party stressed that the paper was designed as a response to the Unionists' proposal; they would not have put it forward otherwise. They would not dissent if another way could be found of doing the necessary work in the available time.

7. Summing up the discussion, the Government Team said it appeared that there was no meeting of minds. It was perfectly proper on the basis of the 26 March statement for the Unionists to say that the time limit expired with the 16 July Conference. That said, if people believed the process to be worthwhile, it would be worth seeing whether there was a way forward. It was agreed that the meeting should adjourn for lunch, following which there would be a meeting of the Business Committee at 2.00 pm and a further plenary session at 2.15 pm.