

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 1992 IN QE2 CONFERENCE
CENTRE TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR STRAND 2

1. The Chairman welcomed the delegations and outlined the purpose of the meeting. He stated that the meeting was not the opening session of Strand 2 but that the purpose was to discuss a possible agenda for Strand 2 if and when it was decided to move to that stage. He recalled the objectives of Strand 2 as outlined in the agreed statement of 26 March 1991. His suggested agenda for the discussion was agreed without objection. He then invited the parties to make their opening statements.

2. Opening statements were made by each of the delegations. On behalf of the British Government, Mr Chilcot suggested that a procedural approach should be adopted for Strand 2 which would be similar to that of Strand 1. He tabled a possible agenda for consideration (text at Annex 1). On behalf of the Irish Government, Mr Dorr emphasised that the meeting was a practical meeting, that the three strands of the Talks were intertwined and that the most sensible approach to Strand 2 discussions was to attempt to move from general to more particular issues. He tabled a possible agenda (text at Annex 2). For the Alliance party, Mr Close suggested the application of the Strand 1 work method to Strand 2. He

tabled a suggested work plan and draft agenda (text at Annex 3). Mr Mallon, for the SDLP, tabled a proposed agenda but emphasised that any agenda for Strand 2 must allow for full flexibility in the issues discussed. (Text of statement and agenda at Annex 4.) Mr Dodds, for the UDUP, outlined the basis on which his party was attending the meeting, as set out in a letter dated 15 June 1992 from Dr Paisley to the Secretary of State (text of Mr Dodds' statement attached at Annex 5). For the UUP, Mr Maginnis outlined his party's attitude towards a possible agenda and sought certain assurances from the Chairman on procedural matters (full text of statement at Annex 6).

3. The Chairman gave the assurances sought by Mr Maginnis and invited all the delegations to respond to the opening statements. The parties to Strand 1 agreed to consider whether the Chairman and the Irish Government could be given access to relevant documents from Strand 1.

4. After an adjournment, the Chairman tabled a composite draft agenda for Strand 2 on which detailed discussion took place. At the conclusion of discussions the DUP reserved its position on the final document. (Text attached at Annex 7).

5. A brief statement was agreed for issue to the media.

6. A list of participants is attached at Annex 8.

17 June 1981

A POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR STRAND 2 OF THE TALKS

STATE OF THE NATION'S ADDRESS

Signed as a correct record

The British Government welcomes the opportunity to discuss a possible agenda for Strand 2 of the talks.

2. In his statement on 21 March 1981, the First Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Peter Brooke, stated that discussions in Strand 2 should be held "among the people of the island of Ireland".

Sir Ninian Stephen

SIR NINIAN STEPHEN

"In order to ensure a fair airing of the issues, it will be open to each of the parties to raise any aspect of those relationships, including constitutional issues, or any other matter which is considered relevant."

3. The possible agenda for Strand 2 might therefore reflect all aspects of relationships within the island of Ireland which participants wish to address in Strand 2. These might include:

... how to enable all participants to acknowledge and, where appropriate, give constitutional expression to Northern Ireland's status as a part of the United Kingdom and to ensure that there will be no change in that status without the consent of a majority of the people who live there, that the present wish of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland is for no change but that, if in the future a majority of the people of Northern Ireland clearly wish for and formally consent to the establishment of a united Ireland, then both Governments will introduce and support legislation to give effect to that wish.