

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 1992 AT 2.30 PM

NS I have now received all papers on obstacles we will now be making a composite paper but I'd like each delegation to go over your own paper.

SC We used a different heading as we not not like the usage of word obstacles.

Read out our issues to be resolved as per paper attached.

The other delegations also read out their papers - DA for Irish Government, KM for OUP, IP for DUP, JH for SDLP all papers attached.

DA then mentioned the absence of specific reference to the Government of Ireland Act and that they considered it crucial.

IP As regards Government of Ireland Act we have no authority to debate the Union. It cannot be changed. If the matter of Union is raised we will not negotiate it. If 1920 Act is obstacle then that is to say that the Union is an obstacle and if removal is considered, we will not be there.

NS The Irish paper does not include any mention of questioning the Union. They talk about the demand of one tradition of their right and consequences of the Act did not give adequate recognition to them. Union is not to be argued. Is that correct?

DA Yes substantially. But the 26/3 statement said that all institutional matters are on the table - and we feel that the 1920 Act can be discussed.

ND But you talk about the consequence of the Act.

DA Yes.

J Hume It is the basis of the NI constitution and properly implemented - it must be discussed.

IP We are not discussing internal relationship in Northern Ireland but relationships between North and South. Unity did not come about but Act was altered and Northern Ireland opted out of certain proposals and the Irish Free State came into existence. We are called in Strand II to discuss relationship between NI as part of UK and ROI. Union not negotiable as it is conditional to the AIA and cannot be changed without the

majority of the people. We were reassured that there would be no attempts to negotiate. They can give their views but do not negotiate.

NS Government of Ireland Act and Union on the other no papers say the Union is to be discussed. Consequences of NI Act is on the table.

PR The Government of Ireland in the basis of the Union.

JH We should discuss all aspects of this problem.

IP If you destroy the Act you destroy the Union. DA has not actually said he won't discuss the Union. We will not be here if it is discussed. I want an adjournment.

PF Did I hear you say you have no objection to anybody making their views known about the Act. If so where is the conflict.

IP I haven't heard anybody they are not here to negotiate the Union.

KM We are running into difficulties. If we make clarification we seem to be conceding. My delegation is not here to negotiate the Union. We have no mandate to do so. We are content to sit and listen to those who want to discuss the impact of certain historical factors the Act. Rather than try to talk each other down we repeat We have no intention and no mandate to negotiate.

NI The ROI paper does not suggest any way of destroying the Union.

IP I must have an adjournments to discuss this with my people.

JH We are discussing a matter that does not exist. It is not an agenda then. An adjournment would be of no use

DA An adjournment is called for. We must respond positively.

NI Could I give IP the ROI paper?

DA I would consider that during the adjournment.

NI If it serves a useful purpose and we can give the UDUP the paper.

PR As I understand it you have attempted to group together all the points in 7 under other. It seems they have nothing in common to each other but should be specific headings.

Meeting adjourned.

FROM ALLIANCE PARTY

09.04.1992 15:24

P. 4

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 1992 AT 3.45 PM

IP queried status of adjournment.

Then composite paper circulated with all obstacle points listed. Chairman asked that they be read out as a useful basis for discussion.

DA Queried the primacy of listing Arts 2 & 3 while relegating Government of Ireland. We see it as strongly as the Unionists view of Arts 2 & 3. We return to the 26/3/91 which states all constitutional issues are on the table. We consider the Government of Ireland Act important and relevant equal to Articles 2 & 3.

NS More comments about Articles 2 & 3 than Government of Ireland Act. We understand the whole of your submission and it is the only one that mentions the Act. No significance in the numbers. Open to amendments.

JH No indication of a priority, We can give our papers back but my concern is to leave them the way they are.

SC We should try to seek resolutions that we all have identified. Each delegation here made that point. Problem is dealing with the issues to try and solve this. Sooner we get down to this the better.

NS I can see the point of ROI concern if the document gets into the wrong hands.

JHanley I support JH suggestion that the 7 headings remain the same papers to be returned.

PF As soon as you make composite lists problems start.

SM What are the headings? I suggest constitutional issues would be a more positive heading.

Are we now agreed that copy of each delegation lists be given to parties.

PR How do we structure these discussions if we reduce papers.

IP We need a structure for discussion. We must have an agenda.

JHanley Re-affirmed the value of independent Chairman and who tried to help others by objectively drawing up the paper. We should accept your order in good faith. We must accept your choice of agenda.

NS Thank you but I don't regard my paper as an agenda.

JH The purpose of the paper was to stimulate discussion. PR I propose 2 readings 1 - constitutional matters for Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland.

IP I agree these are all uncomfortable issues and they will be heard. The general headings given goes to the heart of our remit. The paper is not identified so the press cannot use this.

PR Don't attach numbers and put each heading on a separate piece of paper.

SM Irrespective of all that there are two constitutional issues. Articles 2 & 3 and 1920 Government of Ireland Act. Could create problems every time.

IP I repeat we will not be negotiating the Union. We cannot deal with this in any final way we were not brought here to do that. I won't discuss things that we were told would not be up for discussion. The effects of the Act can be raised by ROI Government if they want even though we disagree.

PF Maybe we are confusing real difficulties in finding an agenda to try and resolve problems. There is a proposed agenda that can be put forward to encompass all issues. He quotes AIA but does not support it then divides it.

IP I have a right to quote your own document that you signed. I am castigated by quoting the Agreement when we are arguing about is the agenda.

JM We can give you, as independent Chairman the remit to draw up an agenda.

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 1992 AT 5 PM.

Two important remarks. We should remind ourselves of the remit given by Plenary - the read out same. Do the Parties feel it would be useful to have unidentified papers from each delegation. Do you want that? Read out agenda.

1. Lack of adequate channels of communication and co-operation between North and South.
2. Terrorism and absence of effective co-operation on security matters.
3. Failure to accommodate the Nationalist community identity in Northern Ireland and the consequent problems of allegiance of that community.
4. Constitutional matters requiring consideration consequent upon the foregoing.

Do you want an exchange of sanctised statements. Would it be useful?

IP It would be helpful.

Agreed

IP Agenda not accepted. We are not grasping the nettle and the matters would not blow. We would listen to remarks 1-3 and then comment on 4. That should be at the top of the agenda. Everything depends on that. We will be going away from the problems.

NS I thought it would be better to start off on with non-conventional matters. Proposal to amend Item 2 to absence of effective co-operation.

IP It is ridiculous to discuss matters that are contingent on Articles 2 & 3. So we can not put it at the bottom of the list. So we will not be giving comments until Article 4. We must grasp the nettle.

JH That is your nettle.

DA I would propose agenda as amended.

IP I oppose it.

NS Can you propose any other amendments.

PR I propose amendments of territorial claim first.