

FORUM FOR PEACE
AND RECONCILIATIONFÓRAM UM SHÍOCHÁIN
AGUS ATHMHUINTEARAS

15 September 1995

Autumn/Winter Programme for Forum

Dear Co-ordinator/Delegation Secretary

Over recent weeks, my colleagues in the Secretariat have consulted Forum delegations on the Autumn/Winter programme for the Forum, on the basis of a paper setting out a draft outline of such a programme for both plenary sessions and sub-committees which had been prepared by the Chairperson, myself and Secretariat colleagues in the light of the Co-ordinating Committee decisions on 7 July, the plenary debate that day on a review of the Forum's work, further responses to our review documents (F244 and F248) and our general knowledge of delegations' concerns. We in the Secretariat have followed up on the points made to my colleagues in the course of the recent consultations and I now enclose a paper (F257), setting out our proposals for the Autumn/Winter programme.

We are proposing a meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee in Dublin Castle at 7 p.m. on 28 September to take stock in terms of the details of the programme but it will be necessary, for planning purposes, that we obtain reactions to this programme from delegations before that. Accordingly, we shall contact Co-ordinators by telephone next week. On the basis of the consultations already undertaken, it appears that there is already agreement as to the business for the first three Plenary Sessions.

On 22nd September it is proposed to hold the meeting of the Economic Sub-Committee at 11.30 and that of the Sub-Committee on Obstacles in the South to Reconciliation at 2.30. Lunch will be provided at 1 p.m. for members of both sub-Committees. If delegations wish to nominate two representatives to attend the Economic Sub-Committees, they may do so. This would also apply to the Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights whose first meeting is now fixed for 29 September, to allow time for Dr. Eide to supply a revised draft of his study. In addition, if, on plenary session days, other Forum members wish to attend at these Sub-Committees, this is acceptable, subject to any physical limitations on any particular day.

The meeting on 29 September of the Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights will take place at 2.15 p.m.

My colleagues and I are at the disposal of delegations to respond to any queries they may have.



I hope that all of you have had some opportunity for relaxation since the summer break, to refresh and renew your energies and creativity and that we may all look forward to a productive Autumn/Winter session of the Forum.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter P. Kirwan'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Walter P. Kirwan
Secretary-General

F257

Autumn/Winter Programme for Forum for Peace and Reconciliation

Frequency and Pattern of Meetings - Plenary Sessions on two Fridays out of every three.

The Record of the meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee on 7 July, 1995 (F251/CC) notes:

"In regard to the programme of work for the early Autumn, it was agreed that there should be a strong focus on results, with priority attention to the work of the Drafting Committee and to agreeing, initially in sub-Committees, Forum conclusions on various consultancy studies. It was noted that this might call for some all-day private meetings and thus that plenary public sessions might be reduced, with flexibility, to once a fortnight".

Consultations with delegations in recent weeks revealed concerns on the part of a number that, particularly in the context of the situation in the wider peace process, any marked reduction in the rhythm of public Forum meetings might

- (1) deprive delegations of valuable and necessary opportunities for regular contact and
- (2) send the wrong political message to the general public and to other actors in the peace process.

Accordingly, the Chairperson and Secretariat have taken soundings on the acceptability of a pattern whereby plenary sessions would be held on two Fridays out of every three. There is widespread support for this and planning has therefore proceeded on this basis.

Contacts with delegations also suggest that it may be more convenient for members of the Drafting Committee if its meetings are, as hitherto, held on the same day as Plenary Sessions, rather than on days where there is no Plenary Session. It is proposed therefore to hold such meetings at 9 a.m. on days when there are Plenary Sessions.

It will be necessary to continue to hold meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee but, probably, at a lesser frequency than over most of the period up to the summer break. In view of the pressure on other time slots, it is proposed to hold such meetings, as necessary, either over lunch on days of Plenary Sessions or, where this is not possible and in view of the considerable overlap between the Co-ordinating and Drafting Committees, by assigning some time at the latter to Co-ordinating Committee business.

It is proposed to ensure that as between the Drafting Committee and the three Sub-Committees - on Obstacles in the South to Reconciliation, Fundamental Rights and Economic Matters, there will not be more than 2 such committees meeting on the same day.

Thrust and Balance of Programme

A possible draft calendar to the end of 1995, for both Plenary Sessions and for sub-Committees is presented below, followed by some detailed notes and a grid of Plenary and sub-Committee meetings is annexed. These assume that developments in regard to the wider peace process and all-party talks would be such that the Forum would continue to hold plenary sessions to the end of the year according to the pattern set out above.

The thrust and balance of the programme aims to respect the guideline set at the Co-ordinating Committee on 7 July (as set out above), while taking into account as far as possible and striking a balance between the views expressed by delegations in consultations on the programme over recent weeks.

Thus the programme as a whole, including for sub-committees, has a strong focus on (a) the work in the 'Drafting Committee and (b) on reaching results and publishing Forum outputs in regard to the areas covered by consultancy studies and other sub-committees. All of this work will, however, proceed in private session and in order to sustain public interest and the profile of the Forum, it will be necessary to continue with Plenary Sessions dealing with other matters, that are of intrinsic importance in the light of the Terms of Reference and that will have public impact.

A very probable address by Vice-President F.W. De Klerk of South Africa and a possible address by President Clinton would have such impact, as would the confirmed oral presentation by the Roman Catholic Church after the divorce referendum. If certain possibilities being explored as to oral presentations from a unionist perspective were realised, they would also attract strong public interest.

There is now wider acceptance among delegations of a visit to Belfast by a Forum panel but there is continuing caution and concern about timing, having regard to the unpredictability of events. Many delegations, notably those that are now or were in the recent past in Government in the South, also recognise the need to ensure that any such visit is widely accepted as conforming to paragraph 11 of the Joint Declaration. Subject to this, the proposal is that a Forum panel (the size and composition of which would be for decision) would visit Belfast to hear Oral Presentations at a neutral venue, the presentations to be related to submissions received and to be balanced as between those from nationalist, unionist and other perspectives. The arrangement would be made with presenters, on the basis that if consideration of timing so imposed - by reference to wider political events - the session could be changed to Dublin at short notice.

Public Hearings on Education and Sport that were deferred from the pre-summer session are included. These also feed into the work of the Sub-Committee on Obstacles in the South to Reconciliation and the dates proposed for them reflect this.

The consideration of draft Forum commentaries on a number of consultancy studies in the economic and human rights areas provides opportunities for the Forum to revisit major sub-themes, the Social and Economic Consequences of Peace and Parity of Esteem/Equality of Treatment and to hold round-up debates on these. It would be for decision whether these commentaries, together with the Realities/Principles document and the Obstacles Report, would be published under one cover (as a "Forum Report") or separately - or both.

Draft Calendar

- 29 September** Forum debate on the challenges of establishing a true process of reconciliation and mutual trust in Ireland.
- Delegation statements in the morning, open debate in afternoon. This would allow members to 'catch up' on the events since the Forum's summer break.
- 6 October** Public Hearing on the Role of Education in Reconciliation, to include
- Department of Education, Dublin
 - the Irish National Teachers Organisation and Teachers Union of Ireland (submissions nos. 233 and 230), with Ulster Teachers' Union on panel.
 - Conference of University Rectors in Ireland (to include Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast).
 - panel of groups who made submissions on Integrated Education.
 - Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE), (submission no. 291)
 - Educate Together (submission no. 397)
 - All Children Together (submission no. 189)
- 20 October (a.m.)** Oral presentation by Dr. John Bradley, Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin of his study for the Forum (initial draft now to hand), 'Exploring long term economic and social consequences of peace and reconciliation in the island of Ireland'.
- (p.m.) Forum debate on Terms of Reference requirement to "explore ways in which new approaches can be developed to serve economic interests common to both parts of Ireland, including in the framework of European Union", [?to include progress report by Department of Finance and European Commission on European Union Fund for Peace and Reconciliation].
- 27 October (a.m.)** ?Oral Presentation (unionist perspective)
- or
- Oral Presentation by Boyle/Hadden/Campbell on their consultancy study on human rights protection.
- (p.m.) Debate on draft Forum Commentary on KPMG study (prepared by Economic Sub-Committee).

Economic Sub-Committee).

- 10 November** Public Hearing on the Role of Sport and Reconciliation
and
Oral Presentation of submissions, to be selected from among those remaining on short-list plus others to hand since Sifting Committee last met.
- 17 November** Hearing of Oral Presentations in Belfast (to include Meánscoil Feirste) by Forum delegation (fall back arrangement for Dublin to cover contingency that Belfast not possible or advisable at that particular time).
- 21 November (a.m.)** Address to Forum by Vice-President F.W. De Klerk of South Africa.
- 29/30 November** ?Possible visit to Forum by President Clinton of United States of America.
- 1 December or
8 December** Forum Debate on Parity of Esteem/ Equality of Treatment/Discrimination and on Draft Forum Commentary on Boyle/Hadden/Campbell and Eide consultancy studies (prepared by Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights)
and
Forum Debate on Draft Forum Commentary on Bradley (ESRI) consultancy study (prepared by Economic Sub-Committee).
- 7 December or
15 December** Oral Presentation by Roman Catholic Church

Notes on Plenary Session Programme

1. One major body with a unionist perceptive is to take its decision shortly as to whether or not to make an Oral Presentation to the Forum.
2. In regard to an earlier tentative idea for a Public Hearing on 27 October on the theme of Conflict Resolution, to cover the South African and Middle East perspectives, it has emerged from contacts with the South African and Israeli authorities that it would not be possible to arrange for relevant personnel to come for a session as early as 27 October. It has also emerged that the programme for an 11 October visit to London by Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa is too overloaded to permit his travelling on to the Forum at that time. However, it has been arranged, subject to full confirmation, that Vice-President F.W. De Klerk of South Africa will address a special session of the Forum on the morning of Tuesday, 21 November.
3. The question of President Clinton addressing the Forum during his visit to Ireland has been raised with the Irish and U.S. authorities involved in preparing the visit. Reactions to the principle have been positive but it is clear that there are many competing calls on

time within what seems likely to be a tightly restricted time framework.

4. Contacts have been reopened with the Sports Council of Northern Ireland but even if they do not participate, the intention would be to proceed with the Public Hearing on Sport , with the participation of the Sports Council in the South and of prominent people in the sports world, North and South, to be approached directly.
5. In correspondence between the Chairperson and Cardinal Cahal Daly, it has been fully confirmed that the Roman Catholic Church will be very happy to make an oral presentation and will be ready to do so in December.

15 September 1995

Sub-Committee on Obstacles in the South to Reconciliation

- 22 September British - Irish traditions, strands and links plus matters dealt with in draft Interim Report
- 13 October Health Issues - to include Board of Adelaide Hospital, Department of Health, National Women's Council - session from 11 am - 4 pm.
- 27 October Education Issues - taking on board Public Hearing in Plenary on 6 October
- 11 November Feedback and discussion on studies/papers commissioned by Sub-Committee
- plus
- Elements of draft Final Report
- 25 November Sport plus elements of draft Final Report
- 8 December Draft Final Report

Notes:

1. Additional meetings may need to be scheduled.
2. Presentation to Plenary would be soon after resumption in New Year.

WK/15/9/95

Drafting Committee

1. First meeting on 29 September at 9 a.m.
2. The schedule proposed in the annexed grid would mean a total of seven meetings in the period to Christmas. It would, of course, be up to the Committee itself to decide the pace at which it wished to move towards completion of a document and additional meetings (of day-long duration, if required) could be convened, if this was felt necessary.
3. Secretariat will circulate revised Realities Draft and first Draft of Proposed Principles around 20/22 September.
4. As indicated, recent consultation with delegations indicate broad support for maintaining a pattern of meetings at 9 a.m. on days of Plenary Sessions.

Co-ordinating Committee

1. As indicated, there is an ongoing need for the Co-ordinating Committee to maintain overall oversight of the work of the Forum. In regard to its first meeting - which will need to take stock of the details of the Autumn Programme of Work - it is suggested that this might usefully take place on the evening of 28 September (the day before the first Plenary - the usual 9 am slot on Plenary day itself is ear-marked for the Drafting Committee). Perhaps 7 pm would be a suitable time.
2. One of the early decisions which the Co-ordinating Committee will have to make is how the issue of public submissions is to be handled in the Autumn. A number of submissions on the short list drawn up by the Sifting Committee have not yet made been heard orally. How many of these should be called? Moreover, some 30 further submissions have been received since the Sifting Committee last met. Should that Committee be reconvened to consider these?

WK 15/9/95

Sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights

29 September, 13 October

Consideration of Dr. Eide study and processing of draft Forum Conclusions arising out of it. Dr. Eide to attend meeting on 13 October.

3 November, 24 November, 1 or 8 December -

Processing of draft Forum Conclusions arising out of Boyle/Hadden/Campbell Study

Notes:

1. Given the time it will take to process Forum Conclusions, it may be better, to avoid undue delay, to publish the Consultants' studies separately, ahead of the Forum Conclusions.
2. It might also be desirable, in terms of publishing Forum commentaries, to treat the Eide and Boyle/Hadden/Campbell studies together. This publication could also include Forum observations on wider/related issues on Parity of Esteem/Equality of Treatment.
3. If this approach is accepted, the aim might be to publish (a) the Eide Study in mid-October, (b) the Boyle/Hadden/Campbell in mid-November and (c) the Forum conclusions on both in mid-December

WK/15/9/95

Proposed Economic Sub-Committee

22 September, 6 October, 20 October -

- First consideration of Bradley (ESRI) Study (in preparation for clearance by Plenary Forum)
- Processing of draft Forum Conclusions on KPMG Study

3 November, 24 November -

Processing of draft Forum Conclusions on Bradley Study

Notes:

1. The first draft of the Bradley Study is now to hand. It is excellent so far as it goes but may require some expansion and some textual amendments. The Secretariat/Steering Group are pursuing these aspects with Dr. Bradley. To avoid undue delay in publishing it, it may be better to publish the Consultant's study separately, ahead of the Forum Conclusions.
2. If this is accepted the publication of the KPMG Study in September would be followed by publication of the Bradley Study in October.

GRID OF DATES AND VENUES FOR FORUM MEETINGS SEPTEMBER -
DECEMBER 1995

DATE	PLENARY	DRAFTING C'TEE	OBSTACLES C'TEE	FRF C'TEE	ECONOMIC SUB-GROUP
Sept. 22			✓ KB		✓
Sept. 29	✓ GH	✓		✓	
Oct. 6	✓ PH	✓			✓
Oct. 13			✓ GH	✓	
Oct. 20	✓ GH	✓			✓
Oct. 27	✓ GH	✓	✓ KB		
Nov. 3				✓	✓
Nov. 10	✓ GH	✓	✓ KB		
Nov. 17	Belfast?				
Nov. 21	✓ FWdeK		✓ KB		
Nov. 24				✓	✓
Dec. 29/30	✓ Clinton?				
Dec. 1/8	✓ GH	✓		✓	
Dec. 7/15	✓ GH	✓	✓ KB		

KEY:

GH - George's Hall
PH - St. Patrick's Hall
KB - King's Bedroom