

**Report on Sub Committee on Fundamental Rights and Freedoms  
Friday 24 November 2.15 pm**

A working draft of the Boyle, Hadden and Campbell paper was discussed and it was agreed after discussion that a second amended draft will be issued before the meeting on the 15 December. There follows a short report on the comments made at this meeting and will give you some idea of how the second paper will be:

Paragraphs 1 and 2 excepted.

Paragraph 3 the last sentence was generally agreed to be too negative and that more positive language should be used on highlighting the campaign on civil rights which would be seen as an advantage rather than a threat.

Paragraph 4 generally alright.

Paragraph 5 provoked the most debate among all representatives including ourselves, it mainly concentrated on the assertion that a human rights culture does not necessarily need "an agreed framework". It was felt that our task in the forum was to encourage the promotion of a human rights culture and that it would be inclusive but not dependant on an agreed political settlement the secretariat will redraft the statement to take into account all the comments made.

Paragraph 6 needs to strengthen especially the first sentence.

Paragraph 7 generally agreed.

Paragraph 8 it was noted by ourselves and SDLP in particular that the relationship between civil and political rights and social economic rights are quite different although the latter does depend on the social and political climate but the former are quite clearly paramount.

Paragraph 9 again a lot of discussion here about group/communal rights. It was agreed needs more discussion as this is a developing area and still needs to be worked out more specifically. It was agreed that Dr Eide's Paper would be looked at before this paragraph is finalised.

Paragraph 10 and 11 it was hoped that the question of self determination will be looked at along with the considerations of the drafting committee and that a final note can be included on our report after the meeting of the drafting committee meetings on the 8 and 15 December.

Paragraphs 12 - 15 dealt mainly with the entrenchment of human rights and it was agreed that the bill of rights should be more explicitly highlighted.

We put forward the suggestion that paragraph 13 should read in the first sentence "Joint Declaration by the British and Irish Governments of their commitment to the protection of human rights throughout Ireland and Great Britain. This will be considered.

Paragraph 16 and 19 were looked at but it was agreed that this section would need more detailed examination as it dealt with the judiciary and legislation.

One comment that was made was that any human rights court system must be direct accessible and expeditious to all citizens.

Paragraph 19 once again this deals with a human rights culture governments should initiate but should be mindful of communal interests of all.

Again it was felt that paragraph 20 and 21 would need to be looked at more specifically. It was agreed by all except Sinn Fein that we must allow for derogations.

Further comments on the working draft to be sent to Adrian before the next meeting if possible.