

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS

Arranged question

Sir Peter Emery: Can my rt hon Friend inform the House whether or not the Government has yet reached any conclusions on the First Report of the Select Committee on Procedure, which was agreed on 1 December, concerning a Select Committee on Northern Ireland affairs?

Lord President: I should like to thank the hon Gentleman, and the other members of that Committee for their work on that Report.

I can inform the House that, having regard to the Reports' conclusions, the Government has decided to embark on consultations with other parties on the basis that the time for a Northern Ireland Select Committee has now come. The House will be made aware of the outcome of those consultations in due course.

In the meantime, I am sure the House will welcome this intention to increase Parliamentary accountability for the affairs of Northern Ireland.