

E. R.

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- cc. PS/Ministers (B&L) *dr*
 PS/PUS (B&L)
PS/Mr Bloomfield
 Dr Quigley
 Mr Stephens
 Mr Brennan
 Mr Chesterton
 Mr Ferneyhough
 Mr Gilliland
 Mr Innes
 Mr Merifield
 Mr M Elliott
 Miss F Elliott
 Mr Sullivan
 Mr Ehrman

PS/Secretary of State (B&L)

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Dr Paisley made a last minute effort to keep the Alliance Party in play by offering to consider an amendment to Thursday's resolution which would have requested HMG to extend the deadlines for Assembly advice on Government business.

2. The Members of the new Committee are:-

| <u>OUP</u> | <u>DUP</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Molyneaux (Chairman) | Paisley (Vice-Chairman) |
| McCusker | Robinson |
| Smyth | Allister |
| Taylor | Campbell |
| McCartney | Beattie |
| Allen | Graham |
| Bleakes | Foster |
| Ferguson | McCrea |
| Bell | <u>Independent</u> |
| Speers | Millar |

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3. Dr Paisley took the chair at the first meeting last night. The attached advertisement will be placed in the press. Letters will issue to a large number of people and organisations inviting them to give evidence, including the leaders of UK and NI political parties, CBI, NICTU, Chief Constable, Churches, Sir Fred Catherwood, Orange and Black Orders, Apprentice Boys etc.
4. The Clerks have begun to contact, by 'phone, potential witnesses to give evidence next week, starting with the Churches. The immediate response has been very cautious and at present only the Reformed Presbyterian Church is likely to appear next Wednesday.
5. The Assembly's Whitley Committee may be seeking formal assurances from DFP about the position of seconded civil servants and their situation if they are asked by Assembly Members to do anything irregular or outside the Assembly's statutory powers.



R B SPENCE

Central Secretariat

6 December 1985

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NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND

A Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly has been established "..... to examine the implications of the Anglo-Irish Agreement for the Government and future of Northern Ireland and the operation of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 and the Northern Ireland Act 1982."

The Committee proposes to begin sittings in the week commencing Monday next, 9 December, and complete the main part of its work before Christmas and is therefore anxious to hear urgently from organisations, groups and individuals who consider they may have something to contribute within the terms of reference. Written submissions are invited and the Committee would be grateful if such submissions could be forwarded as soon as possible, but in any event not later than Friday 13 December 1985. It is likely that the Committee will wish to have oral evidence and persons who would be willing to assist in this way are invited to make their willingness known.

Written submissions, and/or communications intimating willingness to contribute oral evidence, should be addressed to:

The Clerk to the Committee on the Government of Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3SY

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