

RECORD OF A PLENARY MEETING HELD IN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS  
ON MONDAY 24 JUNE 1991

<u>Government Team</u>	<u>Alliance Party</u>	<u>UDUP</u>
Secretary of State	Dr Alderdice	Dr Paisley
Minister of State	Mr Close	Mr Robinson
Mr Fell	Mr Neeson	Rev McCrea
Mr Pilling	Mr McBride	Mr Campbell
Mr Thomas	Mr Morrow	Mr McClure
Mr McNeill	Mr Dickson	Mr Gibson
	Mrs Bell	Mr Wilson
<u>Talks Secretariat</u>	<u>SDLP</u>	<u>UUP</u>
Mr Marsh	Mr Hume	Mr Molyneaux
<u>Also present</u>	Mr Mallon	Mr Allen
	Mr McGrady	Mr McGimpsey
Mr Pawson	Mr Hendron	Mr Empey
	Mrs Rodgers	
	Mr Haughey	
	Mr Feely	

A plenary meeting of Strand One of the Talks took place in Parliament Buildings between 12.05 and 12.45 pm on 24 June. It had before it the text of the DUP opening statement.

2. During further SDLP clarification of the DUP presentation, the main points raised were as follows:-

- (i) In page 19, the DUP confirmed that "Irishman" was a geographical term. People in Northern Ireland were "a race apart" in the sense that they were different from those in the rest of the UK and that Ulster had always been a separate part of Ireland.
- (ii) The DUP confirmed that they defined their "Britishness" as loyalty to the Queen in the terms of the Williamite revolutionary settlement; but there were also factors of culture, upbringing and sacrifices on behalf of the UK.

- (iii) The SDLP felt that there was an inherent contradiction in Unionists identifying themselves as British and yet disdaining things that were British.
- (iv) The DUP felt that Nationalists were trampling on the rights of the Protestant majority in NI.
- (v) The DUP denied that there was a gap between their position and that of the UUP; the two Unionist parties were working together and there was simply a difference of emphasis between them. Each accepted fully the other's paper.
- (vi) In the first paragraph of page 25, the DUP confirmed their view that any new administration in NI would need real influence in security policy; they would prefer absolute control but did not expect it.
- (vii) In answer to a question, the DUP accepted that Nationalists had said that there was a lack of confidence in the administration of security. This was the result of agitation and a continued campaign of denigration of the security forces.
- (viii) The DUP confirmed that, in their view, their paper was realistic, constructive, imaginative and helpful.

3. There being no further questions from the SDLP, the meeting broke for lunch at 12.45 pm.

TALKS SECRETARIAT