



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

<b>Reference Code:</b>	2020/17/56
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
<b>Accession Conditions:</b>	Open
<b>Copyright:</b>	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

SECRET

28

H. McElroy  
rn  
17/7

Taoiseach's Meeting with SDLP (Hume and Mallon)  
16th July, 1990

1. At the end of the meeting, the Taoiseach called the undersigned in to brief him on the discussion. The Taoiseach said he had given a copy of the attached annexes to the SDLP.

Conditionality

2. The Taoiseach said that the SDLP agreed with him that they should take a very strong line this evening against the addition of any amendment to the final sentence of paragraph 1. If the Secretary of State put forward the same fall-back - ("on this basis" to be included at the beginning of the sentence) - as he had at Friday's meeting with the Minister, the SDLP would immediately reject it. It was agreed however that, in extremis, they could accept the formulation "this being the intention" to be included at the beginning of the sentence.

Secretariat

3. On the Secretariat, Seamus Mallon felt very strongly that, if the formulation referring to the "normal role of the Secretariat" were used, the Secretary of State should also include some balancing remark in his statement - he might say, for instance, that the staff complement of the Secretariat would be remaining in place.

Timing of North-South Talks

4. As to the private assurance which the Minister had received from the Secretary of State on the timing of North-South talks, it was agreed that we could live with this; however, the view of the meeting was that North-South talks should begin three weeks after the commencement of the internal talks.

Description of Unionist participation in North-South Talks

5. On the description of the Unionist participation in North-South talks, the SDLP took a very strong position and it was agreed that formulation B of Annex 2 attached was as far as they should be prepared to go.

Simultaneous Conclusion of Talks

6. Finally, John Hume made the point, with which the Taoiseach agreed, that it was important that the Secretary of State would include in his text that all sets of talks would conclude simultaneously and that nothing would be agreed until everything had been agreed. (Note: It is likely that the Secretary of State would have included this in any case, though we can remind the British of its importance).

Dermot Gallagher,  
16th July, 1990.

cc: PST; PSM; Mr. Nally; PSS; Mr. Mathews; Mr. Brosnan;  
Ambassador London; Ms. Anderson.

ANNEX 1

Text to replace last three lines of paragraph 4,  
paragraph 5 and final sentence of paragraph 11  
in Mr. Brooke's draft statement of 4th July

Indeed it is because the Northern Ireland parties all look, as I do, to address each of the three relationships that the talks I have described will necessarily involve discussions between the Northern Ireland parties; discussions between the Northern Ireland parties, with the Secretary of State, and the Irish Government; and discussions between the two Governments about relations between the UK and the Irish Republic, including any implications for the Anglo-Irish Agreement. These discussions may not necessarily start at the same time; however, in order to reach a conclusion that will address all three of the underlying relationships, it will be both necessary and important to get all three sets of discussions underway within weeks of each other.

It is agreed between all the potential participants that the inter-party talks, as soon as they get underway, will be intensive. I have been assured by all the parties that it is their intention to participate actively from the outset in order to seek to achieve rapid progress. It is further agreed by all participants that, so as to reach a conclusion within the timeframe envisaged, it will be necessary, as I have just indicated, to launch the three strands of discussion within weeks of each other.

ANNEX 2

A. Secretary of State's (original) formulation

Discussions between the Northern Ireland parties, including the Unionist parties as members of the UK team, and the Government of the Republic of Ireland.

B. Our preferred formulation

Discussions between the Northern Ireland parties, with the Secretary of State, and the Irish Government.

C. Our second formulation

Discussions between the Northern Ireland parties, including the Unionists as part of a Northern Ireland delegation led by the Secretary of State, and the Irish Government.

D. Our third formulation

This will require discussions between the Irish Government and representatives of the Northern Ireland parties, including the Unionist parties led by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.