



## An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives


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1. I spoke with Denis Haughey concerning the SDLP meeting with Mr. Brooke on Monday last: The SDLP delegation comprised Messrs. Mallon, Hendron, Farren and Haughey and Mrs. Rogers. Mr. Brooke was accompanied by Mr. Mahwinney and Mr. Danny h/h Neill.
2. Mr. Brooke outlined his earlier brief contacts with Mr. Hume, the unionists and Mr. Alderdice. He said the unionists were advocating a "Harland and Wolff" approach. They did not see the imminence of the election as an obstacle, or object to Sir Ninian Stephen or most other points. They did have difficulty about the lack of time afforded by the gap and spoke of injury time. They also wished to reduce the size of delegations and had difficulties with the Stormont location for phase 2, a difficulty which Mr. Brooke thought the Westminster proposal was meant to balance.
3. Mr. Mallon asked for clarification about the Westminster proposal. Mr. Brooke thought that it involved a face to face meeting to iron out details about the talks, and then to go to him on that basis. They were a preliminary means of getting the talks going again. Mr. Brooke pointed out that similar face to face contacts had led to decisive progress in the earlier process. Pressed as to why the unionists wanted a new basis rather than simply resuming on the old Mr. Brooke said they needed to establish a clear distinction between any new talks and the earlier ones. (He "rambled" on this point, according to Mr. Haughey.) Asked about SDLP views on extending the gap Mr Mallon did not rule

out an extension by consensus in the event of real progress being made but he stressed the issue of principle involved in any upset of the previous delicate compromise on this issue. They suggested Mr Brooke should clarify what exactly was being sought. As regards Molyneaux's proposal he indicated that the SDLP were open to informal contacts with the unionists but opposed to any formal contact which excluded Alliance. Contacts on the proposal may be taken up after Dr. Paisley returns from abroad.

4. The SDLP delegation voiced their objections to the Hurd speech on grounds it had been critical of Northern politicians, situated the problem in a UK context and associated the Irish Government with this thesis. The British side pointed to the treatment of the Irish dimension in the speech and the fact that Mr Brookes own speech recognised the three relationships.

  
Sean O Huiginn

16/10/91

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