STRAND ONE: A POSSIBLE WORKPLAN

A: the following was the suggestion I put forward this morning for work over the next few weeks:

today, following any general points participants may make, a discussion revolving round paragraph 2 of the Propositions, on institutions;

[next week, in London: no Strand One business envisaged];

week beginning 2 February, continue on the question of institutions, and consider also rights and safeguards;

week beginning 9 February, police and justice issues;

[week beginning 16 February: Dublin, no Strand One business envisaged];

week beginning 23 February, we might seek to draw together whatever agreements have emerged.

B. I also suggested that if we had a general debate on institutions this week, we might aim to cover in turn 4 or 5 headings:

an Assembly: its form, how it is elected, the range of its powers, its procedures:

how people would be selected from it to discharge executive functions, and how they would account to it for them;

what other institutions, elected or not, might be required: one possibility here is the directly elected panel that emerged from the 1992 negotiations. We could also consider here arrangements if any for the collective responsibility of those with executive functions.

We might then consider in the round what the 'Propositions' describe as 'provisions to ensure that all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of these institutions and that all sections of the community are protected'.

Finally we could address briefly relationships with other institutions, though detailed discussion might be left till work in other strands has moved on.

Paul Murphy, 19 January 1998

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