



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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also noted.

9. The UUP had been pressing for a review Plenary to be held next week, pointing out that one was due in the very near future under the rules. They indicated privately to the Governments that they envisaged a session of a couple of hours only, which would not delay the talks, and saw merit in timing it for a period when Sinn Féin were absent. Our suggestion that Senator Mitchell might consult with delegations on this point early next week (with Tuesday evening as a possible slot, subject to agreement) was agreed by the Business Committee.
10. The following schedule was agreed for the next two weeks:

// Monday 2 March	2pm	<u>Cross-strand meeting</u>
Tuesday 2 March	10.30am-1.30pm 2.30pm- 5.30pm	Strand Two Strand Two //
Wednesday 3 March	10.30am-1.30pm 2.30pm-5.30pm 10.30am	Strand One Strand One Liaison Sub-Committee (CBMs)
Monday 9 March	10.30am-1.30pm 2.30pm- 5.30pm 10.30am	Strand One Strand One Liaison Sub-Committee (decom)
Tuesday 10 March	10.30am-1.30pm 2.30pm- 5.30pm 10.30am	Strand Two Strand Two Liaison Sub-Committee (CBMs) //
Wednesday 11 March	9.30am Afternoon	Strand Three liaison (poss) Cross-strand (poss)

It was agreed that bilaterals might be envisaged during the week from 16 March. It was also noted that President Santer would be coming to Castle Buildings at 9.00am next Tuesday for an informal working breakfast with delegations.

11. This afternoon's meeting of the Liaison Sub-Committee on decommissioning will be the subject of a separate report.

David Donoghue

David Donoghue
25 February 1998

Liaison Sub-Committee on Confidence Building Measures25 February 1998PARAMILITARY ACTIVITYSPEAKING NOTES:

- This Sub-Committee considers paramilitary activity in the aftermath of the appalling bomb attacks of recent days. The Irish Government strongly condemns the bombing of Moira and Portadown and the attempted bombing at Dromad.
- These actions have caused severe damage to the towns of Moira and Portadown. Thankfully there were no serious injuries and no loss of life, but this is no thanks to the perpetrators who knew that their actions and all such actions carry that risk.
- The bombings are also a deliberate attempt to destroy the process in which we are engaged. We must resist this.
- The security forces on both sides of the border are co-operating fully to counter the enemies of peace and democracy. In doing this they have the full support of the two Governments and the people of these islands who wish to see an end to all violence.
- We must also reassert the primacy of political negotiations. It behoves the two Governments and all the parties to re-double our efforts to bring the

Talks process to an early and successful conclusion.

- In my Government's statement to the meeting of this Sub-Committee on 10 February, we placed on record our condemnation of abhorrent practices such as so-called punishment beatings and the intimidation of people out of their homes and neighbourhoods.
- These practices are repugnant and run contrary to the Mitchell Principles of democracy and non-violence to which all parties in the process have signed up. The ending of these practices would represent a significant confidence building measure.
- We recognise that the best way to eradicate violence, and the threat of such violence, is for the process in which we are engaged to succeed in achieving a comprehensive political settlement.
- We cannot allow those who have planted bombs in recent days to deflect us from pursuing such a settlement.