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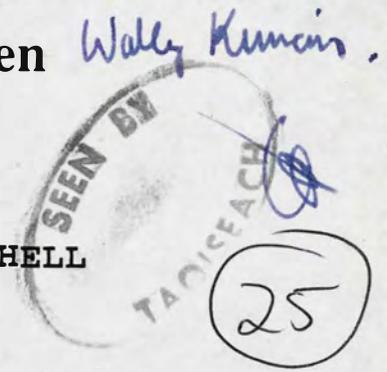
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# Office of the Independent Chairmen

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**STATEMENT BY SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL**

**DECEMBER 2, 1997**



The plenary meeting today was business-like and constructive. The participants agreed to the formation of a small working group to prepare (1) an agreed statement of the key issues to be resolved, and (2) an agreed format for resolving those issues. The working group will include representatives of each participant. It will hold its first meeting tomorrow morning and will report its recommendations to the full plenary on December 15.

We believe that the participants are serious and committed to moving this process forward, and we're more hopeful than ever that meaningful progress is possible. We are encouraged by this modest but important step and we look forward to what we hope will be a productive period before the Christmas break.

-End-

For more information, contact: Kelly Currie (01232) 522957

Review Plenary : [2] December - Key Issues

*Draft Paper  
for discussion next  
Monday*

The following is a summary of the key issues submitted by participants, written in the words of the Chairmen's staff, and not in any order of priority:

Constitutional Issues

- : endorsement of the principle of consent
- : sovereignty
- : Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution
- : British constitutional legislation: Act of Union 1800, Government of Ireland Act 1920, Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973

Strand I

- : new arrangements in Northern Ireland - an Assembly, its purpose, composition, functions, responsibilities, relations with other institutions including in GB, checks and balances, safeguards
- : confidence issues - policing arrangements, demilitarisation, prisoners

Strand II

- : new North/South structures - purpose, composition, powers, functions, responsibilities, relations with other institutions

Strand III

- : intergovernmental and other arrangements between the Republic of Ireland and UK, including the regions - purpose, composition, functions and responsibilities

Rights and Safeguards

- : protection of human, civil, and cultural rights; equality; justice

Other

- : validation of agreement