



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

**COMHLAUGHT IDIR-PHARLAIMINTEACH
NA BREATAINE AGUS NA hÉIREANN**

FIFTEENTH PLENARY SESSION

30 and 31 March 1998

Sllieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Produced by JOHN ROYCROFT & FRANK CRANMER, Clerks to the Body)

1. Monday 30 March 1998

The sitting was opened in public at 9.40 am in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co.Cavan, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.

The Chairman announced that Mr Peter Temple-Morris had become an Associate Member of the Body.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), **Helen Jackson, Mr Peter Temple-Morris, Mr David Tredinnick and Mr Gerry Reynolds**, being Associate Members, had accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to assume the powers and responsibilities of Members for all of the Session.

1. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS, AS AMENDED

Ordered, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session, as amended, be approved.-(**Mr Kevin McNamara**).

The sitting was suspended at 9.45 am.

The sitting was resumed at 10.00 am with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.

1. STATEMENT BY THE TAOISEACH

A Statement was made by the Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD.

1. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

The Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD, replied to Questions for oral answer put by Members of the Body.

Mr Michael O'Kennedy took the Chair as Chairman.

The sitting was suspended at 11.10 am

The sitting was resumed at 11.45 am in private, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.

1. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mr Charles Flanagan, Chairman of Committee A, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Michael Colvin, Chairman of Committee B, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Séamus Kirk, Chairman of Committee C, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Roger Stott, Chairman of Committee D, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

The sitting was resumed in public at 12.20 pm.

1. RULES

Ordered, That the Amendments to Rules 29 and 30 proposed by the Steering Committee in Document No. 57 be made with immediate effect.-**(Mr Kevin McNamara)**.

1. SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Second Annual Report of the Body (Doc. No. 56).- **(Mr Michael Mates)**.

The sitting was suspended at 1.40 pm.

The sitting was resumed in public at 2.40 pm with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.

1. THE FUTURE OF THE BODY

The Body proceeded to an informal discussion of the future role of the Body having regard to the possibility of new elected institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Mr David Winnick took the Chair as Chairman.

Mr Michael O'Kennedy resumed the Chair.

Mr David Winnick took the Chair as Chairman.

The sitting was adjourned at 4.15 pm till tomorrow.

2. Tuesday 31 March 1998

The sitting was opened in public at 10.40 am in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co.Cavan, with **Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.**

1. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Body records its deepest appreciation of the commitment and hard work of all those involved, including the independent Chairmen, in the multi-party talks which are now in their concluding and most critical stage; urges the participants to take, in a spirit of reconciliation and generosity, the final steps to a just, comprehensive and balanced settlement within the three strands of the present talks; expresses its appreciation for the continuing

goodwill and support internationally for such a settlement; recognises the need for all parties to continue to adhere to the principles of democracy and non-violence which have underlain the talks; and looks forward to a successful outcome to the talks and the support of the people in the referenda, North and South.-(**Mr Charles Flanagan**).

Mr David Winnick took the Chair as Chairman.

Mr Michael O'Kennedy resumed the Chair.

And the Main Question being put:- It was agreed to unanimously.

Resolved, That the Body records its deepest appreciation of the commitment and hard work of all those involved, including the independent Chairmen, in the multi-party talks which are now in their concluding and most critical stage; urges the participants to take, in a spirit of reconciliation and generosity, the final steps to a just, comprehensive and balanced settlement within the three strands of the present talks; expresses its appreciation for the continuing goodwill and support internationally for such a settlement; recognises the need for all parties to continue to adhere to the principles of democracy and non-violence which have underlain the talks; and looks forward to a successful outcome to the talks and the support of the people in the referenda, North and South.

1. ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, That the Body do now adjourn.-(**Mr David Winnick**).

The Session concluded at 12.50 pm.