



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

TWENTY-SECOND PLENARY SESSION

26 and 27 February 2001

Kerry Suite, Killarney Park Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Produced by FRANK CRANMER & JIM MULKERRINS, Clerks to the Body)

1. Monday 26 February 2001

The sitting was opened in public at 9.35 am in the Kerry Suite, Killarney Park Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), Mr Jeff Ennis MP, Mr Seán Doherty TD, Ms Helen Jackson MP, Mr Andrew Mackinlay MP, Mr John McWilliam MP and Mr Stephen O'Brien MP, being Associate Members, had accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to assume the powers and responsibilities of Members for all of the Session.

The Chairman announced that the following Parliamentary Observers were attending the Plenary and that, at the invitation of the Steering Committee, they would be invited to address the Plenary pursuant to Rule 2(c): *Isle of Man*: Mr Speaker David Cannan SHK: *Northern Ireland*: Mr Barry McElduff MLA, Ms Carmel Hanna MLA and Mr Donovan McClelland MLA: *Scotland*: Ms Patricia Ferguson MSP, Ms Cathy Craigie MSP, Ms Margaret Ewing MP MSP, Ms Annabel Goldie MSP and Mr Iain Smith MSP: *Wales*: Mr John Griffiths AM and Dr Dai Lloyd AM.

The Chairman noted that apologies for absence had been received from the States Guernsey and the States of Jersey, which had been unable to send an observer on this occasion.

1. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the Body that the Steering Committee had agreed at its meeting on the previous evening to add a further item to the draft Programme of Business, relating to Foot and Mouth Disease, pursuant to Rule 12(a) and notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 10.

Ordered, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session, as amended, be approved.-(The Chairman.)

2. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RULES AND REFORM OF THE BODY

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Amendments to Rules [Doc. No. 80] be made with immediate effect.-(The Chairman);

An Amendment was proposed to the question, in the proposed Amendment (A) to Rule 1, at the end of subsection (c) to insert the words "and should as far as possible be representative of the political groupings represented in those institutions."-(Lord Glentoran.)

And the Question being put, That the Amendment be made:

The Body divided: Ayes, 18: Noes, 9.

So the Amendment was agreed to.

And the Main Question, as amended, being put:

Resolved, That the Amendments to Rules [Doc. No. 80] be made with immediate effect, save that Amendment (A) to Rule 1, shall be further amended by inserting the words at the end of subsection (c) "and should as far as possible be representative of the political groupings represented in those institutions."

Ordered, That the Clerks, in accordance with Rule 1(c), do certify the nominations of Members and Associate Members of the candidate institutions provided that the nominations do not exceed in number the following:

five Members and four Associate Members of the National Assembly for Wales;
five Members and four Associate Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly;
five Members and four Associate Members of the Scottish Parliament;
one Member and one Associate Member of the High Court of Tynwald;
one Member and one Associate Member of the States of Jersey; and
one Member and one Associate Member of the States of Guernsey. **-(The Chairman.)**

The sitting was suspended at 11.30 am.

The sitting was resumed at 11.50 am with Mr Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.

3. FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Resolved, That the Body notes the outbreak of foot and mouth disease and the immediate actions being taken to contain the spread of the disease. **-(Dr Rory O'Hanlon.)**

The sitting was suspended at 1.10 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 2.30 pm, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair

4. STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM, MR JOHN O' DONOGHUE TD

A Statement was made by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr John O' Donoghue TD.

5. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr John O' Donoghue TD, replied to Questions for oral answer put by Members of the Body.

The sitting was suspended at 4.20 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 4.40 pm with Mr David Winnick in the Chair

6. THE CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PARADES

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Report of the Environmental and Social Committee [Doc. No. 81] on the Cultural Significance of Parades and the conclusions and recommendations of the Report, which should be forwarded to both Governments for their observations.-**(Mr Kevin McNamara.)**

The sitting was adjourned at 5.45 pm till tomorrow.

2. Tuesday 27 February 2001

The sitting was opened in public at 10.10 am in the Kerry Suite, Killarney Park Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.

1. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Dr Norman A Godman, Vice-Chairman of Committee A, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Austin Currie, Vice-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 Kevin McNamara, Chairman of Committee D, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

2. COMMITTEE A - ORAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Dr Norman A Godman, Vice-Chairman of Committee A, made an oral report on the work of the Committee since the last Plenary.

Mr David Winnick took the Chair as Chairman.

3. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Resolved, That the Body takes note of recent political developments in Northern Ireland; calls on all of the pro-Agreement political parties to redouble their efforts towards the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement; and continues to support the Irish and British Governments in their efforts to achieve this goal.-**(Mr Tony Killeen.)**

4. FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Fifth Annual Report of the Body.[Doc. No. 79].-(**The Chairman.**)

5. RETIRING MEMBERS

The Chairman called the attention of the Body to the impending retirement from the House of Commons of the Rt. hon. Peter Brooke CH MP, Ms Maria Fyfe MP, Dr Norman A Godman MP and Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP; and directed that the appreciation of the Body for their contribution to its work be recorded in the Minutes.

Mr Michael O'Kennedy resumed the Chair.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, That the Body do now adjourn.-(**Mr Kevin McNamara.**)

The Session concluded at 12 noon.