



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

No. 56 — February 1998

THE WORK OF THE BRITISH-IRISH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY

1. This is the second Annual Report of the Body since it was decided at the 11th Plenary Session in May 1996 that such a Report should be made. The current Report summarises the work of the Body in 1997 - a particularly eventful year in which both parts of the membership were reconstituted after the General Elections (and changes of Government) which took place in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Membership

2. A number of Members retired at the Elections - notably Mr Peter Barry TD, Mr Jimmy Leonard TD, Sir Giles Shaw MP and Mr Stan Orme MP, long-serving Members and former office-holders in the Body or its Committees. At the Plenary Session in March the Body formally recorded its appreciation of those who were retiring at the forthcoming elections. Subsequently, at the election to the Dáil in June 1997, Mr Liam Kavanagh, a Vice-Chairman of the Body, lost his seat and so could not be renominated.

3. A further change came early in the first Plenary Session of the reconstituted Body when the outgoing British Co-Chairman, Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP, resigned his place as a result of his leaving the Conservative Party. He was replaced as a full Member of the Body by Mr Robert Jackson MP, who in turn was replaced as an Associate by Lord Lyell. The outgoing Irish Co-Chairman, Mr Paul Bradford TD, ceased to be a full Member of the Body but happily continued as an Associate Member. A full list of Members of the Body in 1997 both before and after its reconstitution is appended at Appendix 1.

4. A particular sadness was felt by the Body at the untimely death of Mr Jim Kemmy TD. Because the Irish Membership had not then been renominated, Mr Kemmy was not formally a Member at the time of his death in September; however, he was warmly remembered at the Plenary Session in London as a long-standing Member of the Body and as its host during the Plenary at Adare Manor, near Limerick, in May 1996.

Plenary Sessions

5. In accordance with the Rules of the Body, two Plenary Sessions were held in 1997 despite the hiatus in activity resulting from General Elections. These took place

- from 3 to 4 March 1997 in Dublin Castle; and
- from 1 to 2 December 1997 in the QEII Conference Centre, London

Thirteenth Plenary

6. At the Plenary in March the Body was addressed by the then Taoiseach, Mr John Bruton TD. His speech is set out in full in the Report of Debates for the Session. Mr

Bruton was following his predecessor in attending a meeting of the Body and was particularly welcome as one of its former Members.

7. The main debate at the Session was on recent political developments. At that time, in the run-up to the Elections, there was no ceasefire and, in its Resolution, the Body condemned acts of violence, called for the restoration of the IRA ceasefire to enable fully inclusive political negotiations to take place and urged all those engaged in the multi-party talks to redouble their efforts to move as rapidly as possible into substantive three-stranded negotiations. A full text of the Body's resolution is included in Appendix 2.

8. The Body was also able to agree Reports from three of its four Committees:

- from the Committee on Culture, Education and the Environment (Committee D) on Environmental Issues affecting the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (Doc.48)

- from the Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (Committee C) on Animal Health Issues (Doc 52) ; and

- from the Committee on European and International Affairs (Committee B) on Tourism (Doc 51).

9. In those debates, Members were able to consider some matters of recurring interest- notably the impact of BSE on the whole of Ireland, the environmental pollution resulting from the installation at Sellafield and from munitions dumping, and the value of tourism to the economy of the whole of Ireland and the potential for all-Ireland co-operation. During the last debate the Body was addressed by the Minister for Tourism and Trade, Mr Enda Kenny TD.

10. The 13th Plenary also took note of the first Annual Report of the Body.

Fourteenth Plenary

11. When the reconstituted Body reconvened on 1 December, after the Elections, the Session was opened by the outgoing British Co-Chairman, Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP. Its first business was to elect its new Co-Chairmen, Mr David Winnick MP and Mr Michael O'Kennedy TD. The Body elected as Vice-Chairmen Mr Charles Flanagan TD, Mr Michael Mates MP, Mr Kevin McNamara MP and Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD.

12. The session contained two main items of business. The Body was addressed by the Rt Hon Dr Mo Mowlam MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The Secretary of State spoke about the prospects for the multi-party talks proceeding in Belfast and then answered questions for an hour and answered a wide range of Questions for an hour. Her attendance was welcomed by the Body, as was the presence in the hall of the Shadow Secretary of State, Mr Andrew McKay MP, and the Minister of State, Mr Adam Ingram MP-both former members of the Body.

13. The Body also held its customary debate on recent political developments. Since the previous meeting the IRA ceasefire had been restored and Sinn Féin had been brought into the multi-party talks. The Plenary resolved, That the Body commends the Irish and British Governments for their determination in pursuit of a lasting settlement in Northern Ireland and calls on all parties to engage with even greater urgency in the substantive negotiations at the All-party Talks and help to ensure a successful outcome.

14. The Body also took note of the Government responses to the three Reports on Tourism, Animal Health and Environmental Matters which had been approved at the previous Plenary. These Reports had been drawn up and approved by the former membership and had been addressed to the previous Governments. Thus the work of the Body from the previous Parliament and Oireachtas was completed.

Steering Committee

15. The Steering Committee met on five occasions in 1997: in County Wicklow, in March, on the eve of the Thirteenth Plenary Session, and otherwise in Dublin or at Westminster to plan for, or on the eve of, the two Plenary Sessions.

16. The Members of the Committee—Mr Paul Bradford TD, Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP, Co-Chairmen, Mr Liam Kavanagh TD, Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD, Sir Giles Shaw MP, and Mr David Winnick MP—remained in office until the opening of the Plenary on 1 December 1997

17. Continuity of membership of the Steering Committee was also reflected by the re-election of two of its six Members to the Committee in December: Mr David Winnick MP, now British Co-Chairman, and Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD, who remained a Vice-Chairman. The others elected were Mr Michael O'Kennedy TD, Co-Chairman and Mr Charles Flanagan TD, Mr Michael Mates MP and Mr Kevin McNamara MP, Vice-Chairmen.

Committees

18. Reports on the activities in 1997 of Committee A (Political and Security Affairs); Committee B (European and International Affairs); Committee C (Economic and Social Affairs) and Committee D (Education, Culture and the Environment) follow in Appendix 4.

19. As noted above, the work of the Committees of the Body under their pre-Election membership was completed with the taking note of responses to the final three Reports adopted at the Plenary in Dublin. Reconstituted Committees met for the first time at the Plenary session in London on 1st December.

20. The Steering Committee has been considering how, in the new Dáil and Parliament, Associate Members could better be associated with the work of the Body and its Committees. Proposals will be brought forward at the next Plenary for Associate Members to be able to receive papers of one of the Body's Committees to

facilitate their participation in that Committee as a substitute whenever a full Member is unable to attend. A draft Amendment to the Rules for this purpose is appended at Appendix 3.

Prospects for 1998

21. The Body has now been fully reconstituted on both sides and Committees have begun work with enthusiasm. Plenary Sessions are planned for Cavan at the end of March and for York in September.

APPENDIX 1

Members of the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body Ireland

Members of the Body - March 1997

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Paul Bradford TD (*Co-Chairman*)
Mr Liam Kavanagh TD (*Vice-Chairman*)
Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr Dermot Ahern TD
Mr Peter Barry TD
Mr Seymour Crawford TD
Senator Joe Doyle
Mr John Ellis TD
Mr Chris Flood TD
Mr Tony Gregory TD
Mr Paddy Harte TD
Mr Jim Kemmy TD
Senator Joe Lee
Mr Jimmy Leonard TD
Mr Derek McDowell TD
Mr Brendan McGahon TD
Mr Dinny McGinley TD
Senator Paddy McGowan
Dr Tom Moffatt TD
Mr John Mulvihill TD
Mr John O'Donoghue TD
Senator Michael O'Kennedy
Mr Desmond O'Malley TD
Mr Seamus Pattison TD
Mr Brendan Smith TD

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr Noel Ahern TD
Senator Louis Belton
Mr Eric Byrne TD
Mr Ger Connolly TD
Mr Peadar Clohessy TD
Mr Joe Costello TD
Senator Liam Cosgrave
Senator Michael D'Arcy
Mr Michael Ferris TD
Mr Brian Fitzgerald TD
Mr Pat Gallagher TD
Mr Sean Haughey TD
Mr Colm Hilliard TD
Mr Phil Hogan TD
Senator Michael Howard
Mr Seamus Hughes TD
Mr Joe Jacob TD
Mr Micheál Martin TD
Senator Gerry Reynolds

Members of the Body - November 1997

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Michael O'Kennedy TD (*Co-Chairman*)
Mr Charles Flanagan TD (*Vice-Chairman*)
Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr Andrew Boylan TD
Senator Joe Costello
Ms Mary Coughlan TD
Mr Seymour Crawford TD
Mr Austin Currie TD
Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD
Mr John Ellis TD
Senator Edward Haughey
Senator Mary Henry
Mr Conor Lenihan TD
Mr Tony Killeen TD
Mr Séamus Kirk TD
Senator Helen Keogh
Mr Brendan McGahon TD
Ms Marian McGennis TD
Mr Dinny McGinley TD
Senator Paddy McGowan
Senator Paschal Mooney
Mr Caoimhghín O Caoláin TD
Mr Brian O'Shea TD
Mr Michael Ring TD
Mr Brendan Smith TD

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr Bernard Allen TD
Mr Liam Aylward TD
Senator Enda Bonner
Mr Paul Bradford TD
Mr John Brady TD
Mr Matt Brennan TD
Mr John Browne TD (Carlow-Kilkenny)
Senator Frank Chambers
Mr John V. Farrelly TD
Mr Proinsias de Rossa TD
Mr Seán Doherty TD
Senator Pat Gallagher
Senator Tony Kett
Senator Ann Leonard
Senator Maurice Manning
Mr Michael Moynihan TD
Ms Breeda Moynihan-Cronin TD
Senator Francis O'Brien
Senator Joe O'Toole
Mr John Perry TD

Members of the Body - December 1997

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Michael O'Kennedy TD (*Co-Chairman*)
Mr Charles Flanagan TD (*Vice-Chairman*)
Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr Andrew Boylan TD
Senator Joe Costello
Ms Mary Coughlan TD
Mr Seymour Crawford TD
Mr Austin Currie TD
Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD
Mr John Ellis TD
Senator Edward Haughey
Senator Mary Henry
Mr Conor Lenihan TD
Mr Tony Killeen TD

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr Bernard Allen TD
Mr Liam Aylward TD
Senator Enda Bonner
Mr Paul Bradford TD
Mr John Brady TD
Mr Matt Brennan TD
Mr John Browne TD (Carlow-Kilkenny)
Senator Frank Chambers
Mr Proinsias de Rossa TD
Mr Seán Doherty TD
Senator Pat Gallagher
Senator Tony Kett
Senator Ann Leonard
Senator Maurice Manning

Mr Séamus Kirk TD
Senator Helen Keogh
Mr Brendan McGahon TD
Ms Marian McGennis TD
Mr Dinny McGinley TD
Senator Paddy McGowan
Senator Paschal Mooney
Mr Caoimhghín O Caoláin TD
Mr Brian O'Shea TD
Mr Michael Ring TD
Mr Brendan Smith TD

Mr Michael Moynihan TD
Ms Breeda Moynihan-Cronin TD
Senator Francis O'Brien
Senator Shane Ross[[1](#)]
Mr John Perry TD
Mr Gerry Reynolds TD[[2](#)]

United Kingdom

Members of the Body - March 1997

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP (*Co-Chairman*)
Sir Giles Shaw MP (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr David Winnick MP (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr Nick Ainger MP
Mr Henry Bellingham MP
Mr Dennis Canavan MP
Mr James Couchman MP
Mr Hugh Dykes MP
Lord Holme of Cheltenham CBE
Mr John Home Robertson MP
Rt hon Tom King PC MP
Lord Lyell
Mr Kevin McNamara MP
Mr Seamus Mallon MP
Mr Michael Mates MP
Rt hon Lord Merlyn-Rees PC
Sir David Mitchell MP
Rt hon Stanley Orme PC MP
Lord Prys-Davies
Mr Roger Stott CBE MP
Mr John Sykes MP
Rt hon Sir Harold Walker MP
Mr David Wilshire MP

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr Richard Alexander MP
Mr Peter Atkinson MP
Mr Harry Barnes MP
Mr Alex Carlile QC MP
Lord Blease
Mr Michael Colvin MP
Mr Paul Flynn MP
Dr Norman Godman MP
Mrs Llin Golding MP
Mr Nick Hawkins MP
Mr Jerry Hayes MP
Mr Adam Ingram MP
Mr John McFall MP
Mr Eddie McGrady MP
Mr Andrew MacKinlay MP
Sir David Madel MP
Lord Skelmersdale
Mr Richard Spring MP

Members of the Body - July 1997

FULL MEMBERS

Mr David Winnick MP (*Co-Chairman*)
Mr Kevin McNamara MP (*Vice-Chairman*)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr Nick Ainger MP
Lord Alderdice

Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP ^[3] (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	Mr John Austin MP
Mr Harry Barnes MP	Ms Jean Corston MP
Mr Joe Benton MP	Mr Jeff Ennis MP
Mr Gerry Bermingham MP	Lord Glentoran CBE
Lord Blease	Mr John Grogan MP
Rt hon Peter Brooke PC MP	Mr Nick Hawkins MP
Mr Dennis Canavan MP	Ms Kate Hoey MP
Mr Michael Colvin MP	Ms Helen Jackson MP
Mrs Maria Fyfe MP	Mr Robert Jackson MP
Dr Norman Godman MP	Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC
Lord Holme of Cheltenham CBE	Mr Eddie McGrady MP
Mr John Home Robertson MP	Mr Andrew MacKinlay MP
Mr Seamus Mallon MP	Mr John McWilliam MP
Mr Michael Mates MP	Ms Margaret Moran MP
Rt hon Lord Merlyn-Rees PC	Baroness O'Cathain OBE
Mr William O'Brien MP	Mr David Tredinnick MP
Mr Lembit Öpik MP	Mr Robert Walter MP
Lord Rathcavan	
Mr Andrew Robathan MP	
Mr Roger Stott CBE MP	
Mr David Wilshire MP	

Members of the Body - December 1997

FULL MEMBERS

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr David Winnick MP (<i>Co-Chairman</i>)	Mr Nick Ainger MP
Mr Michael Mates MP (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	Lord Alderdice
Mr Kevin McNamara MP (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	Mr John Austin MP
Mr Harry Barnes MP	Ms Jean Corston MP
Mr Joe Benton MP	Mr Jeff Ennis MP
Mr Gerry Bermingham MP	Lord Glentoran CBE
Lord Blease	Mr John Grogan MP
The Rt hon Peter Brooke PC MP	Mr Nick Hawkins MP
Mr Dennis Canavan MP	Ms Kate Hoey MP
Mr Michael Colvin MP	Ms Helen Jackson MP
Mrs Maria Fyfe MP	Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC
Dr Norman Godman MP	Lord Lyell ^[5]
Lord Holme of Cheltenham CBE	Mr Eddie McGrady MP
Mr John Home Robertson MP	Mr Andrew MacKinlay MP
Mr Robert Jackson MP ^[4]	Mr John McWilliam MP
Mr Seamus Mallon MP	Ms Margaret Moran MP
Rt hon Lord Merlyn-Rees PC	Baroness O'Cathain OBE
Mr William O'Brien MP	Mr David Tredinnick MP
Mr Lembit Öpik MP	Mr Robert Walter MP
Lord Rathcavan	

Mr Andrew Robathan MP
Mr Roger Stott CBE MP
Mr David Wilshire MP

- 1 Replaced Senator Joe O'Toole December 1997 [Back](#)
- 2 Replaced Mr John V. Farrelly TD November 1997 [Back](#)
- 3 Mr Temple-Morris ceased to be a Member in December 1997 [Back](#)
- 4 Mr Robert Jackson was nominated a Full Member in December 1997 in place of Mr Temple-Morris. [Back](#)
- 5 Lord Lyell was nominated an Associate Member in December 1997 in place of Mr Jackson. [Back](#)

APPENDIX 2

Reports and other documents approved by the Body Thirteenth Plenary, Dublin, 3-4 March 1997

EU AID FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION - Government Responses

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Responses of both Governments to the Report of the European and International Affairs Committee on EU Aid for Peace and Reconciliation

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND - Report by Committee D

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the Body welcomes the Report of the Committee on Culture, Education and the Environment on Environmental Issues affecting the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and agrees with the recommendations of the Report which should be forwarded to both Governments for their observations.

ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES - Report by Committee C

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the Body welcomes the Report of the Economic and Social Affairs Committee on matters relating to Animal Health Issues, and agrees with the conclusions and recommendations of the Report which should be forwarded to both Governments for their observations.

TOURISM - Report by Committee B

The Body agreed to the following Resolution :

Resolved, That the Body notes the Report of the Committee on European and International Affairs on Tourism and agrees with the conclusions and recommendations of the Report which should be forward to both Governments for their observations.

RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That this Body condemns in the strongest terms all acts of violence, from whatever source; calls for the credible and unequivocal restoration by the IRA of its ceasefire of August 1994, to enable fully inclusive political negotiations to take place; and urges all participants in the multi-party talks in Belfast to redouble their efforts to move as rapidly as possible into substantive three-stranded negotiations, with a view to achieving a comprehensive, balanced and enduring settlement.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the First Annual Report of the Body.

Fourteenth Plenary, London, 1-2 December 1997

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - Government Responses

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Responses of both Governments to the Report of Committee D on Environmental Issues affecting the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES - Government Responses

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Responses of both Governments to the Interim Report of Committee C on Animal Health Issues.

TOURISM - Government Responses

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Responses of both Governments to the Report of Committee B on Tourism.

RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the Body commends the Irish and British Governments for their determination in pursuit of a lasting settlement in Northern Ireland and calls on all parties to engage with even greater urgency in the substantive negotiations at the All-party Talks and help to ensure a successful outcome.

APPENDIX 3

Work of Committees Committee A Political and Security

1. As with other areas of activity for the Body, work in Committee A was severely limited during the year because of the General Elections. The Committee met twice, once as part of a visit to Belfast in January, and on the other occasion during the Plenary in London in December. No formal meeting was held during the Dublin Plenary in March because of the known imminence of the elections.
2. The January visit to Belfast followed the Committee's decision at the Bath Plenary in September 1996 to resume work on the inquiry into Policing, on which attempts to agree a Report in July 1996 had failed. The Committee held meetings with the Chief Constable of the RUC, Mr Ronnie Flanagan, and the Deputy Chief Constable Duncan Campbell, and with Mr Graham Ellison of the University of Ulster.
3. The Committee met during the London Plenary under the new Chairmanship of Deputy Charles Flanagan, with Dr Norman Godman MP as Vice-Chairman. It was decided to look again at the unfinished Report on Policing. It was decided also to visit Belfast and Border areas early in 1998 to examine the extent to which it had been possible to amend security measures in response to the de-escalation of the security situation. It was also agreed that consideration would be given to issues relating to paramilitary prisoners and, time permitting, to the Public Processions etc (Northern Ireland) Bill which was currently before the UK Parliament.

Attendance at Meetings of Committee A in 1997

Meeting in Belfast, 21 January 1997:

Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD (Chairman), Mr Dinny McGinley TD, Mr Seamus Mallon MP, Senator Michael O'Kennedy, Rt hon Stanley Orme MP, Mr David Wilshire MP.

Meeting in London, 1 December 1997:

Mr Charles Flanagan TD (Chairman), Dr Norman Godman MP (Vice-Chairman), Rt hon Peter Brooke, MP, Mr Denis Canavan MP, Senator Joe Costello, Senator Helen Keogh, Mr Tony Killeen TD, Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD, Mr Dinny McGinley TD

Committee B

European and International Affairs

1. In 1997 the Committee met on two occasions, made no visits, and completed one Report.
2. The Committee's first activity in 1997 was a meeting in London on 11 February to agree its Report on Tourism. Evidence in connection with this inquiry had been taken in written form and during a visit to Ireland, North and South, in November 1996.
3. The Committee's Report on Tourism was debated at the Dublin Plenary in March, as were the Government replies to the Committee's Report on EU Aid for Peace and Reconciliation which had been presented to the Bath Plenary in September 1996. Given the impending General Elections in both countries, the Committee did not hold a meeting in the course of the Dublin Plenary.
4. Following the General Elections and the reconstitution of the Body, the new Committee B held its first meeting on 1 December in the course of the London plenary session. Mr Michael Colvin MP was elected as Chairman and Mr Austin Currie TD as Vice-Chairman. The Committee decided to hold its first inquiry into European Union and International Involvement in the Peace Process. Also at the London Plenary, the responses of the two Governments to the report from the previous Committee B on Tourism were debated.

Attendance at Meetings of Committee B in 1997

Meeting in London, 11 February 1997:

Mr David Winnick MP (Chairman), Mr Jimmy Leonard TD (Vice-Chairman), Mr Nick Ainger MP, Mr Seymour Crawford TD, Mr Tony Gregory TD, Mr Brendan McGahon TD, Mr Seamus Pattison TD.

Meeting at London Plenary, 1 December 1997:

Mr Austin Currie TD (Chairman), Mr Nick Ainger MP, Mr Harry Barnes MP, Mr Gerry Bermingham MP, Mr John Browne TD (Associate Member, substituting for Mr Seymour Crawford TD), Ms Mary Coughlan TD, Mr John Ellis TD, Senator Mary Henry, Mr John Home Robertson MP, Mr Robert Jackson MP, Senator Paschal Mooney.

Committee C

Economic and Social Affairs

1. The Committee completed its inquiry on Animal Health Matters with a meeting in London on 24 February 1997.

2. On 3 March 1997 the Committee presented a Report on Animal Health to the Dublin Plenary. The Report, which focussed heavily on the BSE crisis, was adopted by the Body. In line with usual procedure the Report was then sent to both Governments for their responses, which were debated at the London Plenary in December.

3. On 1 December, the new Committee met under the Chairmanship of Mr Séamus Kirk TD to discuss future business. The Committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into Road and Rail Links for the island of Ireland and to hold its first hearings on the subject in the new year. The Committee further resolved to look at the question of inward investment in Border areas. This will involve meetings in Northern Ireland and the Republic with respective state agencies and Ministers.

Attendance at meetings of Committee C in 1997

Meeting in London, 24 February 1997:

Mr Liam Kavanagh TD (Chairman), Sir David Mitchell MP (Vice-Chairman), Mr James Couchman MP, Mr John Ellis TD, Mr Chris Flood TD, Mr Paddy Harte TD, Mr John Home Robertson MP, Mr Kevin McNamara MP, Mr John Mulvihill TD, Rt hon Sir Harold Walker MP.

Meeting at London Plenary, 1 December 1997:

Mr Séamus Kirk TD (Chairman), Mr Kevin McNamara MP (Vice-Chairman), Mr Joe Benton MP, Lord Blease, Mr Andrew Boylan TD, Maria Fyfe MP, Senator Paddy McGowan, Lord Rathcavan, Mr Michael Ring TD, Mr Brendan Smith TD.

Committee D

Culture, Education and the Environment

1. In the first three months of 1997, Committee D completed its Report on Environmental Issues affecting the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The Committee met in Dublin to agree the report on 13 February 1997 and it was debated at the Plenary in Dublin on 3 March 1997. The Report had three main themes: the BNFL Sellafield site in Cumbria and its effects on the Irish Sea, plans by UK NIREX to build a rock characterisation facility to determine the suitability of sites for the storage of low and intermediate nuclear waste, and the dumping of munitions in Beaufort's Dyke off the Ayrshire Coast. Just as the Report went to press, the UK Secretary of State for the Environment announced plans to extend the period of public consultation on the NIREX plans. Given that the time available to make submissions was short, the Committee took the unprecedented step of agreeing that the Irish Members of the Committee would submit a memorandum to the Secretary of State setting out their concerns about the plans. This memorandum was appended to the final report which went to the Plenary for debate.

2. The Plenary in Dublin was the last meeting of the Committee before the General Election in both countries, and the last under the chairmanship of Sir Giles Shaw who retired at the election. The Committee also lost its Shadow Chairman, Dr Tom Moffat TD, who has become Minister of State at the Department of Health. The new Chairman of Committee D is Mr Roger Stott CBE MP and the new Shadow Chairman is Marian McGennis TD. The Committee met at the Plenary in London on 1 December and agreed a new subject for enquiry: the impact of BNFL Operations at Sellafield on the Health of the People of the United Kingdom and the Republic. It is hoped to visit the Sellafield site and to question Ministers and medical experts in both countries.

Attendance at meetings of Committee D in 1997

Meeting in Dublin, 13 February 1997:

Sir Giles Shaw MP (Chairman), Dr Tom Moffat TD (Vice-Chairman), Senator Joe Doyle, Mr Brendan Smith TD, Mr Roger Stott MP

Meeting at Dublin Plenary, 3 March 1997:

Sir Giles Shaw MP (Chairman), Dr Tom Moffat TD (Vice-Chairman), Mr Dennis Canavan MP, Mr Michael Colvin MP, Senator Joe Doyle, Senator Joe Lee, Lord Lyell, Mr Derek McDowell TD, Mr Desmond O'Malley TD, Lord Prys-Davies, Mr Brendan Smith TD, Mr Roger Stott MP

Meeting at London Plenary, 1 December 1997:

Mr Roger Stott CBE MP (Chairman), Ms Marian McGennis TD (Vice-Chairman), Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD, Senator Edward Haughey, Ms Kate Hoey MP, Mr Conor Le nihan TD, Mr Brendan McGahon TD, Rt hon Lord Merlyn-Rees, Mr William O'Brien MP, Mr Caoimhghín Ó'Caoláin TD, Mr Lembit Öpik MP, Mr Andrew Robathan MP.

APPENDIX 4

STAFF OF THE BODY IN 1997

Ireland:

Clerks: Mr Patrick Judge, Mr John Roycroft

Counsellor/Adviser: Ms Orla O'Hanrahan/Mr Breandán Ó Caollaí

Clerk of Committee A: Ms Orla O'Hanrahan/Mr Breandán Ó Caollaí

Shadow Clerk of Committee B: Ms Niamh Ryan

Clerk of Committee C: Ms Orla O'Hanrahan/Mr Breandán Ó Caollaí

United Kingdom:

Clerk: Mr Douglas Millar

Shadow Clerks of Committee A: Mr Mark Hutton/Mr Crispin Poyser

Clerk of Committee B: Mr Nick Walker

Shadow Clerk of Committee C: Mr Alistair Doherty

Shadow Clerk of Committee D: Ms Niamh Ryan

Clerk of Committee D: Dr Lucy Mouland

Administrators: Ms Rosanna Losty, Ms Veronica Carr

Administrator: Miss Amanda Hay

Secretary: Ms Sally Marshall

Consultant: Brigadier John Osborne

Media Consultant: Mr Mike Burns