

Will Haire

27/09/2000

To: ocomarco@bc.edu
cc: William Stuart/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

Subject: Re: November window 

Colm - I have put all the details to my colleague Tony McCusker who is dealing with this issue

Programme did not proceed.



Colm O Comartun <ocomarco@bc.edu> on 26/09/2000 23:07:08

Please respond to ocomarco@bc.edu

To: Will Haire/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP
cc: William Stuart/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

Subject: November window

Will:

I can imagine how difficult it is to focus the First Minister at this difficult time but I need to know how you got on with the proposal. I have a program that I need to run in November if we aren't able to run our cabinet program and so it is a matter of timing.

Best regards,

Colm

Colm O Comartun
ocomarco@bc.edu
Boston College



Colm O Comartun <ocomarco@bc.edu> on 13/09/2000 01:19:48

Please respond to ocomarco@bc.edu

To: Will Haire/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP
cc: William Stuart/OFMDFM/DFP@DFP

Subject: upcoming program

Hi Will:

Here are my thoughts for a program for November or early December.

The Program for the Cabinet of Northern Ireland.

I would like to provide the cabinet with an opportunity to discuss the best management of its organization and relationships over the course of a 4 day program (5 travel days) in a private resort in New England.

The advantages of privacy are to allow the group to get to know each other in a social and professional way without distraction from family, party or government. Free time can be spent discussing finer details of broader discussions and building cross party relationships. Being away from Boston takes away the temptation to shop or meet old friends.

The group could arrive on Wednesday afternoon having left Belfast in the late morning. They could travel to the cape in a large group or smaller groups. The resort is quietly luxurious without being ostentatous and provides the opportunity to relax, take advantage of athletic facilities and private walks. The group would eat together on the first night for a welcoming dinner hosted by the Executive Director of Irish Programs who is very low key and relaxing. Thursday and Friday would have two sessions each with a morning session/wrap-up on Saturday. The group could fly on Saturday night and be back in NI first thing on Sunday morning.

The sessions would cover five areas:

Session 1/ The Committee System. This session, 2 1/2 hours long with a half hour break in the middle, would allow the members to work out their relationship with the committee chairmen, the members and the party political dynamic that exists within the committees. With some "expert witnesses" on hand to discuss the American system (committee staffers from Washington) this session would be loosely facilitated but would probably be a comfortable exploratory session of perceptions and suggestions. This session would build the sense of the group versus "the others".

Session 2/ after a leisurely lunch (resources for staff and communications would be available) would look at Executive - Legislative relations. This pits the cabinet against the Assembly and asks the members of the cabinet to decide how they differ in aims and strategies from the Assembly. Our guests for this session could include the speaker of the Massachusetts House, representing the legislature, and a very yankee former Governor of the State. They would discuss political action in a situation where neither has a natural power advantage which is the American experience, much more than the Westminster model

the US has a system with a balance of powers and a need for concensus. The group would tease out some issues revolving around the management of the house and the business of the house.

Dinner on Thursday night could be quite late and the cabinet would be divided into two smaller groups with the days "guests" as dinner guests.

Friday:

Session 3/ This session looks at technology and resources and would be a more interactive session with two very skilled "guests". The lead technology expert from the State of Connecticut and an expert in thinking outside of the box from MIT. An additional guest from the library of congress is available. They provide information and resources to US Congressmen, Senators and their staff.

Session 4/ Building good relations with the Civil Service would have as a guest a senior civil servant from Canada as the American appointment system is quite different in this case. Later the session could involve some of the accompanying civil servants from the NIO - at the discretion of the members.

Friday night is an opportunity to invite some long standing friends from Boston, New York or Washington to join us to promote economic development and political contacts for a more informal social event.

Saturday Morning:

Session 5/ is a wrap-up session that asks the cabinet to discuss the nature of its own internal dynamic, i.e. the decision making process. While a very private session like the others we would like to suggest that our former dean from the graduate business school be on hand to bring a "board room" perspective to the discussion. This "guest" would very informally chair each session to make sure that there isn't a drift away from productive disussion without in any way getting in the way of robust but healthy discussion.

After Saturday lunch the members are free to relax and get ready to fly out in the early evening.

I hope that this is a format that we can build on and bring to the table as quickly as possible. It doesn't eat too much time from those with very busy schedules but brings the members together in each others company for an extented period of time.

Best regards,

Colm

Colm O Comartun
ocomarco@bc.edu
Boston College

Note of Meeting :Tuesday 29 August 2000 - Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate

Present:

Will Haire ✓	OFMDFM
Colm O'Comartun	Irish Institute - Boston College (IIBC)
✓Tim Lynch	Irish Institute - Boston College
Alan Barr	Transition Programme
William Stuart	Transition Programme

1. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of IIBC providing a programme in the United States for the Executive Committee. It was agreed that the Programme would be multi-issued and should include elements to develop corporacy, the management of coalition and the understanding of the linkage between the Executive and the Legislature.
2. The following actions were agreed:
 - (a) Colm O'Comartun to write to Will Haire within 10 days giving details of a programme including, concepts, session details, timings and location.
 - (b) Programme length to be three to four days
 - (c) Location to be able to accommodate discussion free from outside distractions (possibly in the Cape Cod area)
 - (d) Following the above Will Haire to present paper to HOCS for agreement and approval.
 - (e) HOCS to brief FM and DFM

Alan Barr
Director