

on 15th September 1998

Opening statement of Mr. Justice Feargus M. Flood

Before I give my decisions on the applications for representation I would like to draw attention to the following matters:-

- The Tribunal wishes to emphasize that all the proceedings of the Tribunal will be carried out in such a manner as to ensure compliance with the requirements of constitutional and natural justice.
- In cases where representation is not granted, this does not imply any decision, one way or the other, on the merits of the matters in respect of which an application for representation was made.

- The decisions to grant or to refuse representation are not final and can be reviewed by the Tribunal at any time.
- In cases where representation is granted this does not imply any guarantee that costs will be awarded to the person to whom representation was granted. In addition, the Tribunal wishes to clearly indicate that, save in exceptional circumstances, where the Tribunal decides to make an order granting costs to a person the Tribunal will only certify the costs of one solicitor, one junior counsel and one senior counsel.
- Persons who are granted limited representation will be required to confine their participation at any sittings to matters which affect their own interests.

- The fact that representation is granted to certain parties does not mean that any decision has been taken to proceed to full public hearings in relation to the extended terms of reference of the Tribunal.
- The Tribunal offices have moved to a new location at the State Apartments, Upper Castle Yard, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2. The new telephone number is 6339800. The new fax number is 6339890.
- I should indicate that in due course it is my intention, at a public sitting, to indicate, in accordance with the recent decisions of the Supreme Court, the Tribunal's interpretation of its terms of reference.