

DE-COMMISSIONING

1. The Northern Ireland Women's Coalition supports the International Body's report on Decommissioning. However we would want to underline Para.35 of the Report which places decommissioning firmly within the context of confidence-building and progress on all political issues. And that is the role that we have to play here in these Talks. We have to create the political dynamic to achieve confidence and a sense of progress.

2. At the end of the day the Women's Coalition believes that decommissioning will only work effectively if it is a voluntary process. Certainly it is important that the two Governments move forward in identifying mechanisms to allow this process to take place. We feel that the legal and technical requirements for decommissioning is the responsibility of the two Governments and that the Governments should move ahead with our support. Certainly it is right and proper that the Talks should be kept informed as progress is made. But we feel that it would be counter-productive if the Talks delegations became arm chair generals.

3. The Women's Coalition looks forward to the day when we can achieve decommissioning in reality. In the interim, however, it is vital that this important issue is not used to score political points or hinder the necessary political progress.