



Minister of State

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
11 MILLBANK
LONDON
SW1P 4QE

Ms Monica McWilliams
NI Women's Coalition (NIWC)
c/o Block B
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3SG

10 September 1997

Dear Monica,

**INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON DECOMMISSIONING:
COMMISSIONERS**

The Report of the International Body recommended that the Commission's members should be appointed "on the basis of consultations with the other parties to the negotiating process" and we now have some names for consideration.

The British and Irish Governments have together been in touch with the Finnish, Canadian and US Governments seeking their assistance in identifying members of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning. Our approach to those particular countries was based upon our experience of the outstanding contribution made to the Talks by the three Independent Chairman.

The issue of the chairmanship of the Commission remains under consideration and we will be in touch with you separately on this. Meanwhile the three countries have nominated one person each as follows:

- (a) Finland. Brigadier (retired) Tauno Nieminen (55), an officer with extensive UN experience and who co-ordinated the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia Mission in Yugoslavia in 1995;



- (b) US. Mr Donald Johnson (48), a serving diplomat, formerly Ambassador to Mongolia, and currently working with the OSCE, including on decommissioning, in Moldova;
- (c) Canada. Lieutenant General (retired) Jack Dangerfield (59), who also has had UN experience and has held senior appointments in NATO as well as the Canadian Army.

Full CVs are attached. Lieutenant General Dangerfield has kindly agreed to let his name go forward against the possibility that General de Chastelain, who has been suggested as Chairman of the Commission, is not available. If he is not, the two Governments would propose that Brigadier Nieminen chair the Commission.

The calibre and experience of these candidates is very impressive and the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach would be very pleased for them to serve.

Unless you see any particular problem with these names, we intend appointing them Commissioners when the final moves are made to establish the Commission at the start of substantive negotiations.

On current plans at least two of the three Commissioners-designate will travel to Ireland later this week for briefings at Ministerial and official level, and by the RUC and Garda.

Yours sincerely

Paul Murphy MP
Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office

Ray Burke TD
Minister for Foreign Affairs

**FINNISH MEMBER
BRIGADIER (RETIRED)
TAUNO JUHANI NIEMINEN**

Date and Place of Birth: 10 July 1942, Pori

Married to Lea Kaarina Nieminen, nee Ruutto, two daughters

Career:

Military Academy 1962-65

Instruction Officer, Company Commander, Uudenmaa Jaeger Bn 1965-71

Company Commander, Chief Operations Officer, UNFICYP 1972-73

War College (General Staff Officer) 1973-75

Chief of Office, Helsinki Military District 1975-76

Chief Military Personnel and Administration Officer, HQ UNFICYP 1978-79

US CO Course/General Staff Officer Course, USA 1982-83

Chief of Lappeenranta Military District (Russian border) 1987-89

Head of Personnel Section, Defence Staff 1990-92

Retired from active service 1992

Co-ordinator of the ICFY Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia 1995

**AMERICAN MEMBER
DONALD C JOHNSON**

Born Richmond, California, June 26 1949.

Married to Nelda Sabillon; 2 children. BA Lewis and Clarke College, JD; MA
George Washington U., U. Okla.

Career:

1971-73 With US Army
1974 Foreign Service Guatemala City
1976-78 Desk Officer for Costa Rica Dept of State
1979-81 Assistant General Services Officer, then Political Officer
Department of State, Moscow
1983 Political Officer Department of State, Beijing
1986-87 Political Officer Department of State, Madrid
1987-90 Political Counsellor Department of State, Tegucigalpa,
Honduras
1990-91 Director Latin Affairs National Security Council Dept of State
1993-95 US Ambassador to Mongolia
1996- Head of OSCE Team, Moldova

CANADIAN MEMBER
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL (RETIRED)
John (Jack) K Dangerfield CMM MSC CD

Lieutenant-General (LGen) Jack Dangerfield was born in Regina, Saskatchewan on 21 October 1938. He completed his schooling in Vancouver, British Columbia. He married Jean Rayner of Vancouver in 1959 and they have three sons.

LGen Dangerfield began his military career in 1955 when he joined the Canadian Army (Militia). In 1957 he enrolled in the Regular Army. Between 1957 and 1967 he served in troop and squadron command positions of reconnaissance and armoured regiments in Canada, with the United Nations Emergency Force in Egypt, and in the Federal Republic of Germany. In 1968 he attended the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College in Kingston, Ontario and upon conclusion was promoted to major. He completed squadron command in Canada and Germany, and a two year exchange with the British Army as General Staff Office 2 (Operations) in HQ 1st British Division, Verden, Germany.

In July 1973 he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and served with the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. From 1974 to 1976 he commanded the Royal Canadian Dragoons in Lahr, Germany. He then served as an instructor at the Canadian Forces Staff College, Toronto, Ontario.

Upon promotion to colonel in 1977 he became Director of Land Plans at National Defence Headquarters. He attended the United States Army War College in 1980, and then took command of Canadian Forces Base Suffield, Alberta in 1981.

Promoted to brigadier-general in 1982 he served as Director General Land Doctrine and Operations. He commanded 4 Canadian Mechanised Brigade Group in Lahr, Germany from 1984-1986 and served as Deputy Chief of Staff at

NATO's Headquarters Central Army Group, Heidelberg, Germany from 1986 to 1988.

On promotion to major-general in 1988 he was appointed Commander 1st Canadian Division with headquarters based in Kingston, Ontario and Lahr, Germany.

LGen Dangerfield was promoted to that rank in April 1991 and served in the appointment of Director, International Military Staff at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. He retired from the Canadian Forces in April 1995. He now resides in Kelowna British Columbia.

Lieutenant-General Dangerfield was selected as Commander of The Order of Military Merit in 1990, and awarded the Meritorious Service Cross in 1994. The Government of France appointed him into L'Ordre National du Merite in 1989. The President of the United States selected him for the Legion of Merit in 1996.