

## A PROPOSAL FOR A TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE

This proposal is consistent with the Agreement signed on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1998.

- By Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1999, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will trigger the de Hondt procedure to set up a Transitional Executive following the rules laid out in item 16 of Strand One of the Agreement. These Ministers would not convene in Executive Committee until after the summer period.
- As outlined in sections 22 and 23 of Strand One of the Agreement, all Northern Ireland Departments would be headed by a Minister and all Ministers would affirm the terms of the Pledge of Office contained in Annex A.
- Ministers would have full executive authority in their respective areas of responsibility. However, instead of reporting to the Assembly or to each other in an Executive, their work would be overseen by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who would have veto power over any decision in this period. In the months of transition, the Ministers would prepare a work programme for their Ministries and a budget to be presented to the Assembly.
- In this period, Ministers could only be removed for failure to meet their responsibilities. They would be removed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.
- During the period of transition, Ministers would be able to avail themselves of expertise from business and academia on public sector management. Orientation programmes by Ministers holding similar portfolios in the United Kingdom and Ireland or other countries, if justified would be provided. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland would set up a fund for travel, training and exchanges.
- In addition, Ministers would be expected to submit a written report to the Assembly on the work accomplished during their transitional mandates. An audited statement of accounts will be provided to each Minister by the Secretary of State, before the Minister takes responsibility for the Ministry.
- During this same period, the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister will continue their responsibilities, including further elaboration of the work outlined <sup>in Strand Two</sup> ~~in section 8 of Strand Two~~. These two Ministers will present a report by September ~~1999~~ 1999 on areas where co-operation and implementation for mutual benefit will take place.

Report from (Strand One) des + DFM des.

*Demaj same period. etc.*

- A date will be set now for the British-Irish Council to meet for the first time. That date should not be set before Christmas 1999, giving the Northern Ireland Executive at least three months to work together before the meeting date.
- The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) would present to the Assembly on or before September 1999, <sup>30/11</sup> a detailed blueprint ~~including a timeline by which all paramilitary arms~~ <sup>update</sup> would be decommissioned. <sup>on</sup> The final date of the timeline should not <sup>regular</sup> exceed ~~May 2000. the target date set for decommissioning in the~~ <sup>basis</sup> Agreement. By September 1999, decommissioning would have begun
- In a parallel process, with identical deadline, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999, the British Government would present the Assembly with its blueprint ~~and timeline~~ to assure that normal security arrangements will be in place by May 2000. These provisions are laid out in the Agreement in the section on Security. This would be the responsibility of the British Government.
- In a third parallel process, drawing on the report of the Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland and the Report on Criminal Justice, the Assembly would produce by September 1999, an agreed-upon blueprint and timeline for the devolution of responsibility. Devolution must take place by May 2000. This would be the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.