

Hillsborough, April 1st; Downing St. 15th May: Common Components?

Hillsborough: Sets out achievements of GFA (1.5 pages) 1 April 99

Key words: "Against this background there is agreement among all parties that decommissioning is not a precondition but is an obligation deriving from their commitment in the Agreement, and that it should take place within the timescale envisaged in the Agreement and through the efforts of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning."

"Sinn Fein have acknowledged these obligations...."

UUP/SF positions presented as a "difference of view about timing and the sequence" presupposes that Decomm will happen.

Operational outcomes:

- D'Hondt to be run for "those to take up office as Ministers when powers are devolved" *no automatic devolution*
- ICD to propose date for collective act of reconciliation; link voluntary guns beyond use, normalisation in respect of changed security situation
- Power to be devolved around the act of reconciliation time – NSMC, NSIB, BIC, BIIC will be established.
- ICD to confirm progress, if not nominations will "fall to be confirmed by the Assembly" [subject to cross community vote]

Downing St.: Sets out potential of Agreement.

Key words: "All parties agree to the full implementation of all aspects of the Agreement, including the objective of achieving total disarmament and the complete withdrawal of all weapons from politics in Ireland. They accept the issue of arms must be finally and satisfactorily settled and will do what they can to achieve the decommissioning of all paramilitary arms within the timeframe set down in the Agreement in the context of the implementation of the overall settlement.

Operational outcomes:

- ICD to begin intensive discussions and make report before June 30
- Ministers Designate to be appointed by d'Hondt 'next week'; such Ministers to take up office on devolution on or before 30 June.
- Other institutions may be established in shadow form. [e.g. NSMC, NSIB, BIC, BIIC]
- 2 governments have made it clear that 30 June is final date by which devolution can take place.

Common operational outcomes:

- **D'hondt to be run time linked to agreed progress route.** However, Hillsborough also envisages a link with progress on decommissioning (essentially a condition) with provision for a cross-community vote if no progress. Standing orders introduced last week shift DSDocument to essentially the same position. *Accepted by UUP; not accepted by SF.*
- **ICD to hold intensive discussions** with view to report progress.
- **Other institutions** envisaged in the GFA **may or will be established.**

What could be added to the basket?

- Acceptance of 'obligation' to disarm in context of Agreement, and/or in context of overall implementation of Agreement/current peace process?
- Decoupling of cross community vote from progress on decommissioning/executive establishment. [i.e. decouple UUP assembly party from decision] Room for cross-community vote on executive progress/decommissioning progress? Opportunity to make periodic 'review of Agreement implementation'? [But provision for exclusion of parties already exists in the NI Act.]
- Focus on d'Hondt running asap. Status of standing orders important – what will effect of d'hondt be: shadow or shadow shadow etc.?
- Commitment to accepting De Chastelain's word as final.
- Present GFA implementation analysis: look at what's been done
- Use Ulster Unionist businessmen to be positive
- Clarify party positions on Hillsborough (break down into component parts) and Downing St. May 15th? What would have support, what would not?