

Declaration of Intent: Summary of Options
4th October 1999

*Seminar 15
discuss
decision
work forward 5
10 years;
agree
post dev.
goal.*

- (a) Can't be done at this or any time. HMGUK & ROIG should take forward as much as they can of Belfast Agreement.
- (b) Can't be done at this time. Create framework for trust building opportunities by producing road map. Establish Assembly Committees with no powers of primary legislation. BAIC established to convene Jan 2000 to consider IICD reports.
- (c) Can't be done at this time. Produce road map: Establish Shadow Ministers not meeting in Executive, reporting to Secretary of State. North South Context; East West Context. BAIC established to convene Jan 2000 to consider IICD reports.
- (d) Can't be done at this time. Produce road map: Establish Shadow Ministers working as Executive Have Assembly approve workplan. North South Context, East West Context. BAIC established to convene Jan 2000 to consider IICD reports.
- (e) Can be done at this time. Establish working executive ASAP. The faster the implementation the heavier the cost of the guarantee. Any guarantee/sanction needs to be able to be applied to all and every party. Establish nature of guarantor/guarantee/sanction. Establish BAIC. IICD continues to report – in December 1999, January 2000.

Establishing full executive down the line has pain for both SF and UU's. For SF the pain is not having Executive established right away. For UUP the pain is not having the Executive linked with decommissioning.

Declaration of Intent to Implement the Belfast Agreement in all its aspects
(Option A)

We, the parties to the Belfast Agreement, reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the Belfast Agreement in all its aspects.

We have engaged fully with the Mitchell Review and reaffirm our commitment to its terms of reference agreed by all parties on June 25th 1999, viz.

- An inclusive Executive exercising devolved powers
- Decommissioning of all paramilitary arms by May 2000
- Decommissioning to be carried out in a manner determined by the International Commission on Decommissioning

We believe that the Belfast Agreement will be implemented within the timeframe it sets out for itself. We have agreed, however, that it is not able to be implemented in full at this time. Believing that forging peace cannot be reduced solely to technical-legal tasks, we recognise that there is little trust between us and have therefore agreed to establish opportunities for trust building which involves regular and meaningful interaction between us all.

[In advance of an inclusive executive being established] We have therefore agreed to:

1. Negotiate a draft programme of government setting out our priorities for local government for the next five years.
2. Establish Assembly Committees to have scrutiny, policy development and consultation role with respect to the Department with which each is associated.

They will have the power to:

- Consider and advise on Departmental budgets and Annual Plans in the context of the budget allocation;
- Approve relevant secondary legislation;
- Call for persons and papers;
- Initiate enquiries and make reports
- Consider and advise on matters brought to the Committee by the Minister currently responsible for the Department.
- Nominate members to operate on a cross-border basis to the agreed implementation bodies.
- Nominate members to operate on a cross-border basis on the agreed matters for co-operation.
- Appoint relevant members to interact as equals with Ministerial members of the Dail in council format.

Declaration of Intent to Implement the Belfast Agreement in all its aspects
(Option B)

We, the parties to the Belfast Agreement, reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the Belfast Agreement in all its aspects. We remain convinced that it offers the best way forward. And we are steadfast in our resolve to implement it fully.

We have engaged fully with the Mitchell Review and reaffirm our commitment to its terms of reference agreed by all parties on June 25th 1999, viz.

- An inclusive Executive exercising devolved powers
- Decommissioning of all paramilitary arms by May 2000
- Decommissioning to be carried out in a manner determined by the International Commission on Decommissioning

We believe that the Belfast Agreement will be implemented within the timeframe it sets out for itself. We have agreed, however, that it is not able to be implemented in full at this time. Believing that forging peace cannot be reduced solely to technical-legal tasks, we recognise that there is little trust between us and have therefore agreed to establish opportunities for trust building which involves regular and meaningful interaction between us all.

In the advance of an inclusive Executive being established we have agreed to the following actions:

To establish a Belfast Agreement Implementation Committee (BAIC), to be chaired by Senator Mitchell, and comprising all the parties who were signatories to the Agreement. This committee will meet at least once a month to evaluate progress made.

To establish Shadow Ministers, which would involve the nomination of Shadow Ministers by invitation from the Secretary of State.

Shadow Ministers would have responsibility in their respective areas of work. Shadow Ministers would not report to each other in an Executive, but would report directly to the Secretary of State, who would have power of veto over any decision taken in this transitional period. Shadow Ministers would work together to prepare a programme of government and a budget to be presented to a meeting of the Assembly.

During the same period the First Minister (designate) and the Deputy First Minister (designate) will continue their responsibilities including:

- Further elaboration of the work outlined in NNIA Report No. 7 (15th February 1999)
- Specifically, to include further elaboration of the work on the British Irish Council and the North South Ministerial Council. Shadow Ministers would be entitled to work with their counterparts in both the NSMC and the BIC.

The IICD would continue to report to the government.

The BAIC will convene a meeting in January 2000 which will consider the reports of the IICD, with view to transforming the Shadow Arrangements to full Ministers and to convening the first Executive Meeting of full Ministers.

Parties anticipate that devolution of power would take place by May 2000.