

Interim Report by Senator Mitchell, 15 November 1999

Points to Make

Irish govt.

- Senator Mitchell's interim report is very encouraging.
- In particular, his increasing confidence that a way will be found to resolve the current impasse is significant.
- It is very important that he has identified a consensus that devolution should occur and the institutions should be established at the earliest possible date, and also that decommissioning should occur as quickly as possible.
- The central role of the de Chastelain Commission in achieving decommissioning is also underlined. Its assessment is to be published ~~later~~ today. *promptly*
- However, Senator Mitchell has yet to issue his final report. He makes clear that he expects there to be further developments over the coming days, including in response to the de Chastelain assessment. We should be patient and should avoid unhelpful speculation.