

15 September 1997 (16.00)

REVISED DRAFT PROCEDURAL MOTION

Plenary

- (i) reaffirms its commitment to the decision-making procedures for these negotiations set out in rules 30 to 36 of the rules of procedure agreed on 29 July 1996; and notes the reaffirmation by the British and Irish Governments that any agreed outcome will be submitted for public approval by referendums, North and South, before being put to their respective Parliaments for ratification and the earliest possible implementation;
- (ii) while acknowledging that the discussion of proposals on decommissioning was not resolved to the satisfaction of all participants, notes the intention of the two Governments actively to implement their proposals on decommissioning as set out in their joint paper tabled on 25 June and amplified by the clarifications given to plenary by Mr Murphy on behalf of both Governments on 16 July;
- (iii) welcomes the two Governments' decision to appoint General de Chastelain as Chairman of the Independent Commission and agrees that Senator Mitchell and General de Chastelain should act as Joint Chairman of strand two and that the Rules of Procedure shall be amended accordingly;
- (iv) agrees that each participant is hereby committed
 - to work to achieve the earliest possible decommissioning of all paramilitary weapons;

- to work constructively and in good faith with the Governments in their efforts to secure the implementation of all aspects of the report of the International Body, including the compromise approach to decommissioning envisaged in paragraphs 34 and 35;
- to work constructively and in good faith with the Independent Commission, to enable it to carry out its role in the context of an inclusive and dynamic process in which mutual trust and confidence is built as progress is made on the issues of concern to all participants

and invites the Independent Commission to draw the attention of the plenary to any case where the Commission consider that a participant has failed to engage with the Commission in accordance with this last commitment;

- (v) agrees that item 3 of the agenda for the opening plenary session should be resolved on the basis of the outline proposals tabled by the Ulster Unionist Party, the SDLP and the Alliance Party and on the understanding that, consistent with rule 17, the participants may wish, by agreement, to develop or refine the comprehensive agenda during the negotiations;
- (vi) hereby launches the three-stranded negotiations and invites the relevant Chairmen to convene meetings in accordance with rule 11; and agrees that the Business Committee should meet as required to coordinate the progress and procedures of the negotiations and to advise the Chairmen on the timing and sequencing of meetings in the various strands;

(vii) notes that the two Governments will complete the formal establishment of the Independent Commission on the adoption of this motion and agrees to establish a Committee of the Plenary and two sub-Committees with the terms of reference set out in the annex to the two Governments' joint paper of 25 June;

(viii) invites the Chairman, following the adoption of this motion, to make his concluding remarks, thereby completing the agenda for the opening plenary session of these negotiations;

(ix) invites the Chairman, without prejudice to his powers under rule 12, to convene further plenary meetings at intervals of 2 months or such longer period as may be agreed, in order to review and consider developments across the negotiations as a whole.