

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

11th December 1996

Note for Chairman's office re paper submitted by SDLP

Part 1, under heading 'Responsibilities';

Our concern is not with the concept of helping to implement disarmament, but with the interpretation of the words; 'all aspects of decommissioning as set out in the Report of the International Body.'

If this means that we are merely doing all we can to persuade others to hand over weapons, or supporting the suggested mechanism as suggested in Chapter VI of the Report, then UUP does not have a difficulty.

We feel however, that there is a risk that 'all aspects' will be read as involving other confidence building measures, such as prisons, release of prisoners, police, courts etc. UUP does feel however, that further work/ rewording on this paragraph may resolve the present differences with SDLP.

With regard to the last paragraph in section 1, this creates a great difficulty for us. Quite frankly UUP cannot accept the concept that 'all other aspects of the...Report as may be raised.....' can or should be dealt with in this sub committee. This most definitely involves confidence building measures, some of which we listed above, and placed at the closest point in the process to Decommissioning, clearly establishes a linkage between 'trading off' items such as prisoners for arms etc., the 'cross-ties' that we have referred to before.

UUP has no difficulty in having these items addressed during the process, including at an early stage, as we know that they are of concern to many delegates, and we also acknowledge that whenever they are addressed the charge of linkage can be made, but this is an unacceptable location for these issues.

General, if you have any ideas for 'housing' or dealing with either of the above issues, we will be happy to look at them on a 'without prejudice' basis.

11th December 1996

UUP Contact numbers between now and during the week-end;

Reg Empey available on mobile 0850 313769 or home 01232 795569
Peter Weir, home 01247456348.

If unsuccessful, Unionist HQ may help up until Friday 01232 324601.