

**DECOMMISSIONING -- A TRI-PARTITE PAPER
(APNI, SDLP & UUP)**

1. It is agreed that disarmament, and verification of that process, is necessary to political, economic and social stability within Northern Ireland.
2. It is agreed that this objective should be pursued through the establishment of a Disarmament and Verification Commission which would be comprised of a number of persons of international standing who possess the necessary technical knowledge.
3. It is agreed that among the Commissioners appointed, there should be one representative each appointed by the United Kingdom's and Irish Republic's governments.
4. It is agreed that the disarmament process, which will be legally carried out by the Disarmament and Verification Commission subsequent to the enactment of enabling legislation in both Houses of Parliament, could be expedited by immediately appointing a Commission Designate.
5. It is agreed that the appointment of the Commission Designate will signal the commencement of a process, which would provide continuity of activity and would constitute a Confidence Building Measure (CBM).
6. It is agreed that a Disarmament and Verification Commission will be independent of both Governments and of any Talks process but that it will establish, in consultation with these parties, an agreed system of reporting.
7. It is agreed that the Terms of Reference of the Disarmament and Verification Commission will be drawn up by the two governments after full consultation with other parties to the Talks process and consistent with 1 above.
8. It is agreed that the Disarmament and Verification Commission will reported to Plenary through a Liaison Committee of that body.
9. It is agreed that the lines of communication between all parties involved will adhere to the system outlined in the attached diagram (Schedule A).

It is suggested that the Commission Designate can, among other matters still to be decided, address the following issues:-

Logistics

Communications network/s

Headquarters and office requirements

Arrangements for liaison with police and security services (access to information) in both jurisdictions

Technical personnel support

Technical equipment

Liaison with and reporting to both governments

Interaction with Talks Liaison sub-committee.

It is recognised that the role of a Talks Liaison committee would be restricted by the limited technical knowledge that such a group would have, but that there are some issues which may be undertaken, e.g.:-

Discussion of the methodology of disarmament with the Commission Designate

Agreement on categories of weaponry to be decommissioned

Agreement on a simple liaison strategy by which progress would be indicated.

Nothing agreed herein precludes any party to this agreement from pursuing its own specific aspirations or objectives in respect of any other matter.