

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

15th October 1996 1.30am

The opportunity now exists for the Talks to seriously address the issue of decommissioning. A decision was required to be made in order to proceed to ensure that an issue of such importance can receive the consideration and attention it deserves.

The UUP is satisfied that the interests of the pro Union community would not be best served by delaying any further the debate on this vital issue.

An Agenda is merely a framework within which Participants must have the right to raise all relevant issues on a matter of importance to them. The agenda agreed to-day does just this.

Discussion and agreement on decommissioning comes before discussion and adoption of the agenda.

The UUP by our actions have ensured that agreement on decommissioning will have priority over agreement on all other matters.