

ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY

DECOMMISSIONING

12 NOVEMBER 1996

Ulster Unionists have, with all other participant parties, declared their desire to see the removal of illegally held arms and explosives from our society. This process requires the oversight of a Disarmament and Verification Commission to be established by legislation in both Westminster and the Dail.

It is clear that the achievement of peace must involve a permanent end to the use of, and support for, paramilitary violence.

To qualify to participate fully in the current talks process parties must establish a tangible commitment to exclusively peaceful methods and show that they abide by the democratic process.

DECOMMISSIONING PROPOSALS

1. There must be an express declaration by all parties associated with, or deemed to be affiliated to, a paramilitary organisation of a complete, universal and permanent end to the use of violence.
2. Sinn Fein/IRA must subscribe to the Six Principles outlined in the Report of the International Body. Any action incompatible with a genuine and tangible ending of a terror campaign will result in exclusion from the process. This should apply to both actions and omissions on the part of any party, its associate organisation or any proxy thereof.
3. To confirm a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods Sinn Fein/IRA must begin actual decommissioning with a substantial tranche of guns, commercial explosives (e.g. Semtex) and bomb initiating materials before it can be admitted to substantive negotiations.
4. There must be an acceptance that the decommissioning process is independent of the negotiations. Decommissioning, (on the basis of commitment to the Six Principles), must progress to completion irrespective of the progress of the separate political negotiations.
5. Structures should be put in place and methodology outlined prior to the launch of substantive negotiations which would provide for actual decommissioning. The United Kingdom and Irish Governments should publish and enact the necessary enabling legislation as soon as possible.

6. All agreements on decommissioning entered into prior to the launch of the substantive negotiations shall be binding on all current and future participants in such negotiations.

DECOMMISSIONING METHODOLOGY

A core Disarmament and Verification Commission designate should be established consisting of the Chairman designate, ideally some other Commissioners designate, and some support/advisory staff. The first task of the Commission Designate would be to draft and publish provisional decommissioning and verification scheme/s.

Establishment of the Disarmament and Verification Commission proper should take place within a specified period after the enactment of the necessary legislation. Its first task will be to finalise Decommissioning Schemes.