

Pigeon Hole
STATEMENT.

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

Press Release

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Statement : from David Trimble MP

Speaking in the Northern Ireland Forum today Mr David Trimble MP said,

'If there is a determination by HMG to move the train and it actually moves, that puts decommissioning in an different light. Let us remember the reason for the insistence on decommissioning. First it is to ensure that if Sinn Fein/IRA join the process that there is actual decommissioning alongside Talks - decommissioning in fact not word. But this can only happen if Sinn Fein/IRA are there. No demand will be made for Loyalists to unilaterally decommission, because of the Mitchell Report's correct insistence on mutuality.

So in the absence of Sinn Fein/IRA, discussion of decommissioning is hypothetical. But it is not academic. We have been engaged in this hypothetical discussion for a very important reason. We do not want to proceed into substantive Talks and then find Sinn Fein/IRA parachuted into the process on unacceptable terms. We are convinced that some parties to the Talks are manoeuvring to do just that. So we have insisted on agreement on terms of entry and decommissioning procedures to prevent Sinn Fein entering on unacceptable terms.

If it is clear that the train is leaving and Sinn Fein/IRA is being left behind; then the question of them being parachuted in on terms unacceptable to us, and the need for agreement on terms of entry and decommissioning, becomes academic. That does not mean that we can negligently agree to inadequate terms and procedures but it **might** mean that the issue can be *pigeon holed* until it becomes a significant issue, when of course, it should come back out of the *pigeon hole*. This would happen if it looked like the train was going to stop for passengers.