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POSSIBLE ELEMENTS IN RESOLVING DECOMMISSIONING

An aide memoire

1. Build on the "trilateral" paper of December 1996 on mechanisms for making further progress on decommissioning.
2. Establish the Independent Commission at an early stage in parallel with the launch of the three strands with a remit to develop draft decommissioning schemes and facilitate and verify decommissioning. (The enabling legislation has already been enacted in both jurisdictions.)
3. Establish a Committee of Plenary to advance all aspects of the Mitchell Report and with a role in liaising with the Independent Commission.
4. The mechanisms will include provision, perhaps in a distinct sub-committee, for discussing "confidence-building measures".
5. Clarify the role of the two Governments: their joint commitment to see the issue tackled to the satisfaction of the participants as an indispensable part of the process; and their intention to carry matters forward with energy and determination.
6. Secure commitments from all participants to work constructively and in good faith to secure the implementation of all aspects of the International Body's proposals on decommissioning; and to work constructively and in good faith with the Independent Commission.
7. The Government will make it clear its hope that there would be due progress on decommissioning alongside progress in the political negotiations,

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emphasising that success in the negotiations will depend on the creation of mutual confidence.

8. If the commitment to work constructively with the Independent Commission were not honoured, it would be in a position to draw attention to the fact.
9. More generally the Independent Chairmen would keep progress in the process as a whole under review so that they could identify what progress was needed if confidence were to be sustained.
10. Regular review plenaries.
11. If agreement is secured on proposals of this kind, we envisage that it should be on the basis that they would not be open to negotiation by any party who might wish to join the process at a later stage.
12. Requirement to convene a plenary if any new participant is invited to join the negotiations, to secure commitment to the Mitchell principles, and to affirm its acceptance of the commitments on decommissioning (para.6 above). Such a party would of course be subject to all the agreed provisions and rules of procedure adopted by existing participants.