

*Minister of State*

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*Dear David,*

**INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON DECOMMISSIONING:  
COMMISSIONERS**

The Report of the International Body recommended that the Commission's members should be appointed "on the basis of consultations with the other parties to the negotiating process" and we now have some names for consideration.

The British and Irish Governments have together been in touch with the Finnish, Canadian and US Governments seeking their assistance in identifying members of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning. Our approach to those particular countries was based upon our experience of the outstanding contribution made to the Talks by the three Independent Chairman.

The issue of the chairmanship of the Commission remains under consideration and we will be in touch with you separately on this. Meanwhile the three countries have nominated one person each as follows:

- (a) Finland. Brigadier (retired) Tauno Nieminen (55), an officer with extensive UN experience and who co-ordinated the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia Mission in Yugoslavia in 1995;





- (b) US. Mr Donald Johnson (48), a serving diplomat, formerly Ambassador to Mongolia, and currently working with the OSCE, including on decommissioning, in Moldova;
- (c) Canada. Lieutenant General (retired) Jack Dangerfield (59), who also has had UN experience and has held senior appointments in NATO as well as the Canadian Army.

Full CVs are attached. Lieutenant General Dangerfield has kindly agreed to let his name go forward against the possibility that General de Chastelain, who has been suggested as Chairman of the Commission, is not available. If he is not, the two Governments would propose that Brigadier Nieminen chair the Commission.

The calibre and experience of these candidates is very impressive and the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach would be very pleased for them to serve.

Unless you see any particular problem with these names, we intend appointing them Commissioners when the final moves are made to establish the Commission at the start of substantive negotiations.

On current plans at least two of the three Commissioners-designate will travel to Ireland later this week for briefings at Ministerial and official level, and by the RUC and Garda.

Yours sincerely

Paul Murphy MP  
Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office

Ray Burke TD  
Minister for Foreign Affairs