

Secretary of State - If I were to, I would be found to have fettered my discretion. I must not say in any event I shall require this or not require that.

Peter Robinson - DUP - Is it inconsistent at that stage that certain conditions had to be met.

Secretary of State - If it were reasonable in all areas to do that it would not be inconsistent.

Peter Robinson - DUP - According to areas you are being pressed. Could I ask Owen if she agrees with her Prime Minister in that a ceasefire would need to be credible and irrevocable?

Nigel Dodds - DUP - Yes.

Peter Robinson - DUP - Negotiating reporting and goes further than H M G. Can I look at prospects for actual decommissioning. Governments envisaged guns being handed over during talks. Parallel Decommissioning, not parallel Talks.

Secretary of State - Talking is not sufficient but talking is a start.

Peter Robinson - DUP - If a committee was set up Unionists would be asked to take on faith that there would be no blocking. Is Government not prepared to separate committee from mechanism of decommissioning.

Secretary of State - Our purpose is to crack on with preliminaries before commission can be created. Blocking can occur in Plenary.

Peter Robinson - DUP - If in Plenary no parallel talks - this would be done first.

Secretary of State - Talks only continue as long as participant determine they shall.

Peter Robinson - DUP - Resistance is to where work relates to rest of process.

Secretary of State - I think there would be a remedy.

Sean Farren - SDLP - If there was blocking in committee I cannot see why there (SDLP) would not be a remedy in the 3 strands.

Nigel Dodds - DUP - Sir Patrick has put it as I would. We see the process as mutually reinforcing.

Peter Robinson - DUP - There seems to be a lack of understanding as to what Unionists were prepared to do. The process requires democrats to sit with those willing to leave paramilitarism behind. Unionism demanded indicators that this was true. We are being asked to go beyond the mandate we have.