

(draft as circulated at plenary, 12/6)

PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY AND NON-VIOLENCE

[Joint Statement by the participants]

The participants in the all-party negotiations aimed at securing a comprehensive negotiated settlement, confirm their total and absolute commitment specifically to the principles of democracy and non-violence as expressly set out in paragraph 20 of the Report of the International Body:

- to democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues;
- to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations;
- to agree that such disarmament must be verifiable to the satisfaction of an independent commission;
- to renounce for themselves, and to oppose any effort by others, to use force, or threaten to use force, to influence the course or the outcome of all-party negotiations;
- to agree to abide by the terms of any agreement reached in all-party negotiations and to resort to democratic and exclusively peaceful methods in trying to alter any aspects of that outcome with which they may disagree; and
- to urge that "punishment" killings and beatings stop and to take effective steps to prevent such actions.

The statement is made by the following:

The British and Irish Governments, the Alliance Party, Labour, the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, the Progressive Unionist Party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the Ulster Democratic Party, the Ulster Democratic Unionist Party, the Ulster Unionist Party and the UK Unionist Party.