

BRITISH DRAFT: 19 SEPTEMBER 1996  
(Agreed with Irish Officials ad referendum: 20 September)

**SUGGESTED CONCLUSIONS TO THE PLENARY ADDRESS TO DECOMMISSIONING**  
[to be tabled by the two Governments]

The participants in the multi-party talks, meeting in plenary session:

- note the commitment of the two Governments to all aspects of the report of the International Body including their support for the compromise approach to decommissioning set out in paragraphs 34 and 35, which state:

"The parties should consider an approach under which some decommissioning would take place during the process of all-party negotiations, rather than before or after as the parties now urge. Such an approach represents a compromise. If the peace process is to move forward, the current impasse must be overcome. While both sides have been adamant in their positions, both have repeatedly expressed the desire to move forward. This approach provides them that opportunity.

In addition, it offers the parties an opportunity to use the process of decommissioning to build confidence one step at a time during negotiations. As progress is made on political issues, even modest mutual steps on decommissioning could help create the atmosphere needed for further steps in a progressive pattern of mounting trust and confidence".

- note the commitment of the two Governments to work with all other participants to implement all aspects of the Report [and the commitment of the political parties, for their part, to work fully with the Governments in this task].
- note that as an important step towards implementation, each Government will publish at the conclusion of the opening Plenary session draft enabling legislation which will provide the basis for giving effect to the International Body's recommendations on the modalities of decommissioning. Having considered any comments which the committee referred to below may have they intend to introduce legislation in their respective Parliaments in the forthcoming session so that as progress is made on political issues the legislative framework is enacted by Christmas 1996.



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- [agree to work constructively and in good faith to secure the implementation of all aspects of the Report of the International Body, including its proposed compromise approach to decommissioning, in the context of an inclusive and dynamic process in which mutual trust and confidence is built as progress is made on all the issues of concern to all participants. The reality for all present and future participants is that progress in the Talks will only be possible on this basis.]
- Late Irish reserve placed by O'hUiginn
- agree to establish a committee charged with working to secure implementation of all aspects of the International Body's Report on this basis. The Committee will comprise representatives of all the participants and be chaired by the Independent Chairman of the Plenary. [Its membership will also include the Chairman designate of the Independent Commission proposed in the report of the International Body and which is provided for in the draft legislation]. The two Governments will make available to the Committee a range of relevant technical expertise. The Committee will follow the attached working agenda (Appendix 1). It will first meet on [7/14 October].
- agree that a plenary session should be convened in [December] to take stock of progress in the negotiations as a whole, including the work of the committee. At that meeting, all participants would review the position, and the progress which has been made across the entire spectrum of the negotiations. It would also be possible, under the provisions of paragraph 12 of the rules of procedure, for the plenary to be convened specifically to enable the Independent Chairman to brief participants on the progress made by the committee.
- agree that the adoption of the above proposals should conclude the address to decommissioning by the opening Plenary and that the negotiations should now be advanced, with the opening of substantive discussions in the three strands on [7/14 October].

Note: On this basis, following the completion of other business, including the agreement of the comprehensive agenda, statements by participants, and final remarks by the Independent Chairman, the opening Plenary session would be concluded. Under the agreed rules of procedure the appropriate Chairmen will then convene meetings of the negotiations within the three strands and the proposed Committee on Decommissioning, opening on [7/14 October] and proceeding in parallel.

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