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ANNEX C

(7 August 1996)

## WORKPLAN FOR FURTHER PROGRESS ON DECOMMISSIONING ALONGSIDE THE THREE STRANDS

1. Enabling legislation: consideration of draft Bills published by both Governments on [            ] to provide the legislative framework to implement the International Body's report.
2. Modalities: consideration of options for, and agreement on outline of, decommissioning scheme, including role of independent commission.
3. Other confidence-building measures: consideration of other aspects of the International Body's report which participants may consider relevant.
4. Passage of legislation: enactment of enabling legislation.
5. Detailed scheme: finalisation of detailed scheme, including any necessary subordinate legislation on amnesty, powers and privileges of commission etc.
6. Phasing and sequencing: agreement on:
  - phasing necessary to secure balanced mutual decommissioning; and
  - sequencing, in relation to political negotiations, necessary to lead to 'a progressive pattern of mounting trust and confidence'.
7. Independent Commission: establishment by International Agreement of the independent commission, and activation of the relevant order/regulations.

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8. Promulgation of decommissioning scheme and activation of other relevant orders/regulations.

9. Other confidence building measures: implementation of mutual confidence-building.

10. Actual decommissioning: in the context of an inclusive and dynamic process building trust and confidence as progress is made on the issues.

2. Decommissioning is an important issue, because:

no government can tolerate the existence within its jurisdiction of illegal arms which could be used to threaten democratic institutions or for other criminal purposes;

the retention of such arms by organisations who have previously used them for the purposes of political violence threatens to undermine the basis of confidence and trust necessary to make progress in political negotiations;

equally, a start to decommissioning of these arms would demonstrate in practice a commitment to exclusively peaceful methods so helping to build confidence as part of the negotiating process;

as the International Body noted: "Everyone with whom we spoke agrees in principle with the need to decommission. There are differences on the timing and context . . . . but they should not obscure the nearly universal support which exists for the total and verifiable disarmament of all paramilitary . . . ." (paragraph 17)

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