

- (i) Commitment by both Governments to introduce their enabling legislation early in the coming session with the aim of getting it enacted as quickly as possible and, in any event, before Christmas. That timetable of course assumes a supportive Parliamentary climate which in turn would be affected by the degree of constructive engagement in the negotiations as a whole.
- (ii) A commitment which would be binding on all present and future participants to work constructively to implement all aspects of the Report of the International Body, including the compromise approach to decommissioning. To be specific, were that commitment to be part of the "acquis" when Sinn Fein entered the Talks process, then the same requirement would apply to them as well.
- (iii) As the vehicle to secure that implementation, the Governments propose the establishment of a Committee, comprising all the participants in the Talks and chaired by the Independent Chairman of the Plenary. Its membership will also include the Chairman designate of the Independent Commission, to minimise any hiatus when the Commission is established. This Committee would, the Governments believe, provide exactly the right forum to make progress on the lines indicated by the International Body, enabling the participants to commence detailed discussion on decommissioning and maintain ownership of the issue.
- (iv) The Governments understand the concern that, unless specific action is taken, there might be little in the way of practical progress between the establishment of this Committee and the full introduction of the Independent Commission in line with the recommendations of the

International Body. This concern focuses on the absence of technical and legal expertise to enable a particular method or methods of decommissioning to be "operationalised". The Governments will therefore be willing to ensure that no gap exists by making a body of appropriate expertise available to the Committee to get on with the necessary and essential preparatory work. Such expertise would be provided from within the Governments' security and legal resources - although we would also be prepared to explore the possibility of securing the services of outside expertise if the decommissioning committee saw value in that course. In due course the fruits of this expertise - and if appropriate the experts themselves - would be available to the Commission.

- (v) With these technical resources, the Committee could undertake from day one an active programme of essential preparatory work. This would include
- (a) working up into a series of alternative schemes the different options for decommissioning outlined in the Report of the International Body;
 - (b) carrying out a rigorous practical analysis of the precise role, powers and privileges of the Independent Commission, as required by each of the possible schemes, as an essential preliminary to agreement on the modalities and the formal establishment of the Commission on the basis of with the appropriate personnel, resources, powers and so on.
- (vi) The Committee would review this work and make recommendations to the Governments, who would then finalise and promulgate a scheme for decommissioning, and precise arrangements for the Commission, as soon as they were satisfied that a workable scheme of decommissioning had been identified which would be capable of finding broad acceptance among the parties and among those expected to decommission.

5. Thus the timing of the establishment of the Commission will enable essential preparatory work to be done - and the Governments propose the Committee, with appropriate resources, as the vehicle for that work. The Committee could also take forward work on the context in which a decommissioning scheme could be developed (including progressive confidence building measures) and on the impact of the requirement for decommissioning to be mutual as between Republicans and Loyalists.
6. The Governments would also propose 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.
7. The Committee would have a clear work programme and the resources to carry it through. Its work could not be stalled by the absence of any party. Moreover, the commitment which the Governments would be seeking from all parties to the negotiations would be to work constructively to secure implementation of the report of the International Body, including the compromise approach to decommissioning. When that commitment is made everyone will expect it to be honoured in good faith, in the context of an overall process of negotiations which builds mutual trust and confidence. The Governments invite all parties to start to create that mutual trust and confidence through the process of negotiation now.