

NEG 37/96

QUESTIONS ON DECOMMISSIONING

- 1 What is the intended parliamentary timetable for the passage of this legislation ?
- 2 What consideration has been given to the structure and membership of the Verification Commission ?
- 3 Will the membership contain representatives for the British and Irish governments , or will its membership be entirely drawn from outside the British Isles ?
- 4 Has the option of setting up an inchoate Commission with some of its staff and their functions designated at this stage been considered ?
- 5 What will the terms of reference for the Commission and when will these be in place ?
- 6 What will the powers of the Commission be ? Will these be entirely dependant on the grace and favour of the two governments or will it have powers to act independently of them ?
- 7 Will these powers be passive or will it ,for example, have the powers to enter and search, or require the production of information ?
- 8 Have any international comparisons been considered and investigated , e.g. SALT ?
- 9 What work has been done on the draft regulations on decommissioning (Irish Government)/ draft decommissioning scheme (British Government) ?
- 10 How much work can be done prior to the paramilitaries coming in ?
- 11 What procedures should be agreed now to cover the situation if and when Sinn Fein enter the process ?
- 12 What thoughts have been given to the timetable/schedule for actual decommissioning ?
- 13 How is this to be staged ?
- 14 What remedy will be available if there is failure of any paramilitary party to comply with the decommissioning process/ timetable ?
- 15 What decommissioning provisions would apply if one set of paramilitary parties/party were to leave or be expelled from the process, to the remaining paramilitary party/parties ?

46/9/a  
PST; PSS; Ministers Owen,  
de Rossa & Taylor; Attorney  
General; Minister of State  
Coveney; Messrs. Teahon,  
Donlon & Dalton; Ambs.  
London and Washington; Joint  
Secretary; Counsellors A-I.