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ANNEX A

POSSIBLE DRAFT PACKAGE FOR RESOLVING DECOMMISSIONING BEFORE  
THE ELECTION (Draft 20.1.97)

OPENING PLENARY AGENDA: COMPLETION OF ITEM 2

1. The participants in the multi-party negotiations hereby commit themselves to work constructively and in good faith to secure the implementation of all aspects of the report of the International Body, including the compromise approach to decommissioning envisaged in paragraphs 34 and 35.
2. The participants welcome, as an important step towards the implementation of the report of the International Body, the progress made by the two Governments towards the enactment of appropriate enabling legislation in their respective Parliaments which will provide the statutory basis for giving effect to the International Body's recommendations on the modalities of decommissioning.
3. The participants agree that
  - the mechanisms for achieving further progress on decommissioning alongside progress in the three strands should comprise an Independent Commission and a Liaison sub-Committee of plenary. There should also be a sub-Committee of plenary to consider developments in relation to confidence building measures. The respective roles and responsibilities of the Commission and the two sub-Committees should be as set out in the attached Annex;

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- those mechanisms should be formally established [following consultation between the Governments and the parties on the identity of potential members of the International Commission] in time for their first meetings to coincide with the launch of the three strands of substantive political negotiation;
  - if the business of the opening plenary session is not completed before the UK General Election it should resume within [2] weeks of the election (unless that would mean meeting after [30] April, in which case the opening plenary session should resume on [2] June). In either case the Chairman is invited to ensure that the business of the opening plenary session is completed by [4] June;
  - the three strands of substantive political negotiations should commence on [9] June.
4. The participants agree to work constructively and in good faith with the Independent Commission to enable it to carry out its role, 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. A reality for all present and future participants is that progress in the negotiations will only be possible on this basis;
5. The participants invite the Independent Chairmen as a group to review progress in the substantive political negotiations on a regular basis; consult with the Liaison sub-Committee on the conditions necessary for mutual decommissioning to occur; and, in the light of that and on the basis of implementing the International Body's compromise approach to decommissioning, offer an opinion, as soon as they judge during the course of the negotiations that the time is right, that the circumstances are such that mutual decommissioning should be expected to commence.

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6. The participants also invite the members of the Independent Commission, following their appointment, to draw attention to any case in which a participant demonstrably dishonours the commitment referred to in paragraph 4 above.
7. For their part, the British Government and the Irish Government, the UUP [and others] would expect to see the commitments referred to in paragraphs 1 and 4 above reflected in due progress on decommissioning alongside progress in the substantive political negotiations; and will work to achieve that. If mutual decommissioning does not commence after the Chairmen have offered an opinion on the lines referred to in paragraph 5, they reserve the right to reconsider whether sufficient confidence still exists to provide the basis for further progress in the political negotiations.

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