

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ANNEX E

INTEGRATED HANDLING PLAN FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S DECISION ON THE
CEASEFIRE, SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT ON DECOMMISSIONING COMMISSION AND
MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

Report of the Committee monitoring the
ceasefire to go to the Secretary of State

Friday 22

Sofs to review situation with Chief Constable/GOC
at SPM (09:00 - 10.30am, Belfast). [Possible statement
and photocall following SPM]

Tuesday 26

Doorsteps in Belfast and Londonderry

Tuesday 26

Sofs to write to Minister of Justice consulting
on coming into force of section 7 of Northern Ireland
Arms Decommissioning Act 1997

AM Tuesday 26

Sofs to consult Irish Government - meeting with
Ray Burke (c 6pm, Belfast)

Tuesday 26

Sofs to sign Agreement establishing Decommissioning
Commission with Mr Burke at photocall after meeting
("full powers" to be shown to Mr Burke before signature).
[Possible media questions].

Tuesday 26

Issue of Joint Communiqué on meeting

Tuesday 26

[meeting or phone call with Trimble (c 8pm)

Tuesday 26]

Sofs BBC Breakfast News TV 'phone-in

27

C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

(trying to re-arrange for post ceasefire announcement)

AM Wednesday 27

SofS interview with Des McCarten of Belfast Telegraph

AM Wednesday 27

SofS to consult Prime Minister (9am)

Thursday 28

Cabinet informed of decision

Thursday 28

Talks Chairmen informed of decision

Thursday 28

SofS announces decision (in Belfast?)

Thursday 28

SofS issues invitation to Sinn Fein to nominate
representatives to the talks (if decision positive)

Thursday 28

SofS to sign Commencement Order bringing section 7
of Northern Ireland Arms Decommissioning Act 1997
into force on 1 September (If Minister of Justice has
replied to SofS consultation letter of 26 August)

Friday 29

SofS to brief London based US correspondents

Friday 29

Follow-up interviews, if required

Friday 29

SofS interview for "Inside Politics", (Pre-recorded)

Saturday 30

Sky TV "Boulton on Sunday" (being approached,
pre-recorder SofS or Mr Murphy/Mr Ingram)

Sunday 31

C O N F I D E N T I A L

"Sunday Life" and "Sunday Times" (for national edition)
being asked to take articles in name of Sofs

Sunday 31

29

HT./21560

C O N F I D E N T I A L