

21-JUL-97 MON 17:54

353 1 6621972
DEPT OF AN TAOISEACH

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Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseachce: SP
PB
AC

FAX COVER SHEET

NORTHERN IRELAND DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

DATE: 21. 7. 97 TIME: _____

FAX NO: _____ PAGES: 3 (including cover sheet)

FOR: Mr John Holmes

FROM: Mr Walter Kirwan, Assistant Secretary

MESSAGE: Further to the conversation between the
Taoiseach and Prime Minister earlier this
afternoon and yours with Paddy Teahan,
I attach our proposed language by reference
to your A and B. You will see we have
gone a long way with your formulations.
The Taoiseach considers that this is as far

NOTE: as we can go on the 4th sentence of A.
7 will be at my direct line - 6764248.
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A - Proposed amended version

Both Governments are fully committed to the implementation of the Mitchell Report in all its aspects.

The two Governments see the resolution of the decommissioning issue as an indispensable part of the process of negotiation, alongside other confidence-building measures for all sides. They recognise that decommissioning should not become a blockage in negotiations, and that it depends on the co-operation of the paramilitary organisations themselves. But both are equally clear that they want to see real progress on decommissioning alongside progress in the substantive political negotiations, as part of the confidence-building process and look to all parties, in good faith, to negotiate on that basis.

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B - Proposed amended version

The two Governments recognise the importance of the consent principle, consistently applied, and believe it should be a guiding principle in the negotiations, in which no outcome is excluded or predetermined.