

A.

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 actual decommissioning as part of the confidence-building process and expect all parties, in good faith, to negotiate on that basis.

B.

The two Governments recognise the importance of the consent principle and believe it should be given a high priority once the substantive negotiations begin.

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