

The International Body

Meeting with Representatives of the Ulster Democratic Party
(UDP)

January 17, 1996
Belfast

Participants: Gary McMichael, Gary Matthews

Account of Meeting

McMichael said principles expressing opposition to "punishment" beatings and killings, the exclusive use of democratic and peaceful methods, and the total disarmament of all paramilitary organizations were acceptable. He had no mandate the principle on verification as presented but in principle the principle of verification was acceptable. Phased decommissioning during negotiations was problematic; it was difficult to say that the paramilitaries would subscribe to decommissioning during negotiations. The likely reaction from paramilitaries would be to ask when this (decommissioning) exactly was supposed to happen. The last of the possible principles presented to the UDP, acceptance of any outcome of all-party negotiations, was acceptable.

McMichael said the "principles" concept seemed sensible. He noted, however, that the INLA is not committed to peace. The loyalists therefore have to watch them.