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ANNEX A

COMMISSION DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCEOVERVIEW

It is essential that the police service in Northern Ireland is professional, effective and efficient; free from partisan political control; accountable, both under the law for its actions and to the community it serves; and that it operates within a coherent and co-operative criminal justice system designed to:

- deliver a fair and impartial system of justice to the community;
- be responsive to the community's concerns, and arrange community involvement where appropriate;
- have the confidence of all parts of the community; and
- deliver justice economically, efficiently and effectively.

It must be capable of maintaining law and order including responding effectively to any terrorist threat, and to public order problems.

The Commission should inquire into the police service in Northern Ireland and, on the basis of its findings, bring forward proposals for future policing arrangements. It should also require information and bring forward proposals on other areas of the Criminal Justice system which impinge on its work in relation to policing. Those proposals should be designed to ensure that:

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- the police service is so structured, managed and resourced as to ensure that it can be effective in discharging its full range of functions;
- that the legislative and constitutional framework is such as to ensure that the police service maintains its impartiality in the discharge of police functions;
- that the police operate within a clear framework of accountability to the law and to the community they serve in that:
  - ◆ they are constrained by, accountable to and act only within, the law;
  - ◆ their powers and procedures, like the law they enforce, are clearly established and publicly available;
  - ◆ there are open, accessible and independent means of investigating and adjudicating upon complaints against the police;
  - ◆ there are clear arrangements enabling local people, and their political representatives, to articulate concerns about policing and, (subject to safeguards to ensure police impartiality and freedom from partisan political control) to publicly establish policing priorities and influence policing policies;
  - ◆ there are arrangements for accountability for the effective, efficient and economic use of resources in achieving policing objectives;
  - ◆ there are means to ensure independent professional scrutiny and inspection of the police service to ensure that proper standards of effectiveness are maintained.
- policing arrangements, including culture, ethos, recruitment and training, must be such that the police are representative

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of, enjoy widespread support from and are seen as an integral part of the community as a whole.

**TIMESCALE OF COMMISSION'S WORK**

The Government proposes to establish the Commission as soon as possible, with the aim of it starting work by [Autumn 1998]. The Commission would be invited to prepare emerging findings by [Autumn 1999] for the preliminary information of the Talks participants and other interested parties before publishing its final report [by Christmas 1999] [in Spring 2000].