

Breaking the Impasse

1. Parties renew commitment to Good Friday Agreement in respect of their wish to see both inclusive multi-party institutions and the decommissioning of weapons. In doing so they will:

- Reaffirm the importance of the Independent Commission's task and pledge/encourage co-operation with its efforts in the context of implementing the overall settlement confident that in so doing decommissioning would be achieved within the timescale laid down in the Agreement;
- Reaffirm their commitment to making the Executive and related institutions work including using any shadow period to ensure the earliest possible transfer of power.

2. Two governments undertake, as per legislation, to transfer power on the basis of "sufficient progress" in the implementation of the agreement.

3. D'Hondt procedure run to appoint (Shadow) Executive.

4. Progress report from the Independent Commission to be part of 'sufficiency test':

- Such progress could include "shadow decommissioning" (necessary first/preparatory steps in the process) i.e. direct contacts with paramilitary groups, exchange of intelligence, discussions/reassurances regarding modalities etc.
- A progress report could also include a viable workplan or proposals for achieving/assisting voluntary decommissioning within the timescale.

Cover points

UUP

The approach outlined provides immediate cover through de Chastelain and the process of shadow decommissioning – “a real indication that the process is being taken seriously” (Empey).

Interim cover (post-transfer) lies in proposals/workplan from de Chastelain and parties’ pledge of cooperation including any commitment to encourage others work with the Commission.

Fallback cover would have to lie in understandings/undertakings about procedures which could be moved in the event of decommissioning not being achieved/effected within the given timescales.

Positive indication of commitment to inclusiveness and to working all aspects of the agreement.

Sinn Fein

D’Hondt without any gesture by the IRA and full ministerial office/transfer of powers without prior decommissioning, handovers etc.

“Lead role and independence” (McGuinness) for de Chastelain

Implementation as means of advancing conditions where progress on disarmament might be achieved: importance of letting ministers and parties do their job in relation to office/institutions and allowing de Chastelain do his.

Positive indication by Sinn Fein that they are using the influence – “jumping together”