

SDLP

01 July 99

COLLECTIVE DECLARATION

On 25 June 1999, in order to ensure full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement the parties committed themselves to the following three principles:

1. An inclusive Executive exercising devolved powers;
2. Decommissioning of all paramilitary arms by May 2000;
3. Decommissioning to be carried out in a manner determined by the Independent Commission on Decommissioning.

After further discussions, in order to implement these principles, the following steps have been collectively agreed:

1. Following from the first principle, an inclusive Executive Committee will be established under d'Hondt, and powers will be devolved immediately to that Executive Committee on a full and complete basis.
2. As indicated in the second principle, all participants are committed to the decommissioning of all paramilitary arms by May 2000. As in the third principle, the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) will determine the manner in which decommissioning will take place. Participants call upon all paramilitary organisations to cooperate fully with the Commission. The Commission will report to the two Governments at regular intervals on progress made.
3. In the event that either devolution is not fully exercised, or decommissioning is not achieved, according to the terms set out above, the Governments have undertaken that they will conduct a Review, in consultation with the parties, of the relevant aspects of the Agreement and suspend the operation of the institutions set up by the Agreement, with immediate effect. All Ministers, including the First and Deputy First Ministers would cease to hold office. Devolved powers would in the meantime revert to the Secretary of State.
4. The Governments have also undertaken to act in this way if at an earlier point they find, based on a report from the Commission, that the commitments now entered into are not being honoured.
5. In the event of suspension, the Governments and the parties will seek, within the Review undertaken, to re-activate rapidly the institutions on a cross-community basis.

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