

Ulster Democratic Party

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The UDP party officers met today to consider the proposals for political progress presented by the British and Irish governments and the subsequent statement from the IRA.

The UDP has a number of areas of concern that should be addressed, particularly in relation to the IRA position. Some of these issues are as follows;

1. The IRA statement does not signal that the IRA has removed the option of force. Is its war now over?
2. The IRA statement is unclear on whether the proposed inspection of selected arms dumps represents the IRA's definition of its arms being put beyond use.
3. It has been projected from some quarters that the IRA agreement to put its arms beyond use is an agreement to destroy its weapons as part of a process. If this is not the case, a government formed under false expectations would not maintain public confidence.

The UDP has concluded that as it stands the initiative is not a basis for establishing a durable government. Until the UDP's concerns are satisfactorily addressed we are unable to make a final response to the British government.