25 February 2010

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON DECOMMISSIONING

To: Rt. Hon. Shaun Woodward, MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Belfast

To: Mr Dermot Ahern, T.D.
Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform
Dublin

Introduction

1. This report covers the period since our last written report on 4 September 2009 and details the decommissioning of paramilitary arms conducted by us during that period.

Ulster Defence Association

2. In January 2010 we carried out a major decommissioning event with the Ulster Defence Association. This event was further to one executed with the UDA in June 2009 and was conducted in the presence of witnesses provided by the UDA. Substantial quantities of arms and ammunition were decommissioned during the event as well as some explosives and explosive devices. The leadership of the UDA has informed us that these arms constitute all the arms under their control.

Official Irish Republican Army

3. In October 2009 and in January 2010 we carried out two events in which a quantity of arms and ammunition belonging to the OIRA were decommissioned. The events were also witnessed by individuals nominated by the OIRA. The OIRA representatives informed us that the arms decommissioned were all they could recover of stocks that have been inactive over a number of years.

Irish National Liberation Army

4. In December 2009 and February 2010 we carried out events in which quantities of arms and ammunition as well as some explosives and explosive devices belonging to the INLA were decommissioned. These events were facilitated through intermediaries chosen by the INLA, who also
witnessed the decommissioning events. The INLA representatives informed us that these arms were all they had under their control.

UDA South East Antrim Group

5. In February 2010 we carried out an event in which weapons, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices belonging to the UDA South East Antrim Group were decommissioned. This event was further to other events conducted in October 2007 and January and May 2009. The UDA representatives have informed us that these arms constitute the final amount under the Group’s control.

Shoukri Paramilitary Element

6. In December 2009 we carried out an event in which some arms, ammunition and explosive devices belonging to the Shoukri paramilitary element were decommissioned. This event followed two previous events in which a small number of arms and ammunition were also decommissioned. The Shoukri element has stated that the arms decommissioned were all it had under its control.

Conclusion

7. At the direction of both governments the Commission’s mandate has been terminated with effect 9 February 2010 in the British jurisdiction and 25 February 2010 in the jurisdiction of the Republic of Ireland. Accordingly this is the last operational report we will submit to the two governments.

8. We will now review with the governments the measures they wish us to take to close our offices in Belfast and Dublin and to complete the final report they require from us prior to our standing down.