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FOR JOHN HOLMES
FROM PADDY TEAHON

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Draft**28.9.98****Implementation of the Agreement: Possible Steps in making Progress****Two Governments**

- Would stress in statements over the coming weeks, as work on a resolution of the current difficulties proceeded, that:
 - progress needed in implementation of all elements of the Agreement. Agreement was negotiated as a package and would have to be implemented as a package. Difficulties of one party or other regarding elements of Agreement had to be addressed in that context;
 - their (the two Governments) aim, therefore, was to intensify work with all concerned to ensure that progress was indeed being made across all elements of the Agreement. [Note: specific statements to be made as concrete developments occur - eg enactment of Northern Ireland Bill, rights and equality, prisoners, policing and justice, normalisation, etc. See below also].

First and Deputy First Minister

- Informal arrangements are currently in place, under the direction of the First and Deputy First Minister, to advance preparations for institutions within Northern Ireland (eg the Assembly, the breakdown of Departmental responsibilities - in anticipation of the establishment of the Shadow Executive - the Civic Forum etc). These arrangements are proceeding satisfactorily.
- Arrangements are needed to advance preparations for the inaugural meeting of the Shadow North/South Ministerial Council, given the deadline of 31 October outlined in the Agreement for the identification and agreement of subject areas where co-operation and implementation for mutual benefit will take place. Accordingly, an informal Group would be established, under the direction of the First and Deputy First Minister, and comprising representatives of the parties, for this purpose. The Group would have an informal meeting with the Taoiseach, Minister for Foreign Affairs and other Ministers of the Irish Government to discuss modalities and other preparations for the inaugural meeting of the Shadow Council. This preparatory process would also include meetings of officials North and South to lay the technical groundwork for the identification and agreement of areas for co-operation and implementation, thereby facilitating the work of the Shadow North/South Council, once established.
- The Group could also assist in preparations for the first meeting of the Shadow

British Irish Council.

Decommissioning

- To ensure that the decommissioning issue is addressed in a manner which is sensitive to the concerns of all sides, the two Governments will promote with the key parties the approach set out below.

General de Chastelain

Statement indicating valuable discussions are taking place with Martin McGuinness. Confident these can be taken forward in positive and productive way.

To report regularly.

Willing to act as guarantor.

[Similar arrangement with Loyalists].

Sinn Féin

Issue statement in which they would

- restate commitment to play their part in the implementation of all elements of the Agreement, including the actual decommissioning of arms;
- undertake to work actively with the Decommissioning Body with a view to the early resolution of the modalities for decommissioning (General de Chastelain's statement would confirm that this was already happening);
- state that they intend to use their influence with a view to ensuring that decommissioning will be completed within the timeframe set out in the Agreement;
- recognise the importance, in the decommissioning context, of significant developments taking place at the time of the entry into force of the new British-Irish Agreement, and the transfer of powers to the new institutions, and that they would be using their influence to this effect with the IRA.

Mr. Trimble

Issues statement in which he would:

- welcome the de Chastelain and Sinn Féin statements (and de Chastelain's guarantor role), and says he finds them encouraging;

- express his belief that it is now clear that the decommissioning process has started in earnest, that actual decommissioning will take place and that it will be completed within the timeframe set out in the Agreement.

Confidence Building Measures

- British Government to continue with normalisation programme on as intensive a basis as possible. Well publicised;
- Work would continue to ensure that all paramilitary groups are on ceasefire (in practice only CIRA left);
- Statement by Sinn Féin on the Disappeared, including that specific information on the location of bodies has been made available appropriately - eg either to the Victims Commissioner, the Authorities or the families.
- Seek movement on an end to paramilitary punishment beatings.

Joint Statement by two Governments

- Two Governments issue joint statement in which they would welcome above developments and state that they now believe that the decommissioning issue can and will be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties within the timeframe envisaged in the Agreement.

Shadow Executive

- On the basis of the foregoing, there is agreement among all parties that formation of the Shadow Executive would proceed in time to meet the 31 October deadline regarding the work programme of the Shadow North/South Council set out in the Agreement.

END