

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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STATEMENT BY SENATOR GEORGE J MITCHELL
SEPTEMBER 8, 1999

I have completed an initial round of discussions with the political parties and the Governments. I am encouraged by the seriousness of purpose and determination with which they are entering this review.

The discussions confirmed the obvious reality that there are deep differences among the parties, on two levels: on the Agreement itself, between the pro-Agreement and anti-Agreement parties; and among the pro-Agreement parties on how best to achieve its implementation.

The review will continue next week with further discussions in an effort to move toward the objective of the review as established by the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach: to try to "determine how to overcome the difficulties which exist in the practical implementation" of the principles agreed by all pro-Agreement parties on 25 June:

"- an inclusive Executive exercising devolved powers;

- decommissioning of all paramilitary arms by May 2000;

- decommissioning to be carried out in a manner determined by the International Commission on Decommissioning."

On Monday, before this round of discussions, I said that I believe those difficulties can be overcome. I still believe that and will do all I can to achieve that result.

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