

An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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FAX COVER SHEET

To: Ann Whelan

For:

From: Helen Blake

Date: 30 Nov

Pages: 3 (Including cover sheet)

MESSAGE

letters for exchange of notifications attached

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Secretary-General
Given to Taoiseach see
to part of his request.
I will copy to the Taoiseach.
I have given a slightly different version to

Note GJS version

Current Position on Sequencing for Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement

GJS, omitting date for NSMC + BIC/BIIGC.

1. Political agreement.

2. Election of First Minister, Deputy First Minister : Running of d'Hondt : Election of other Ministers on 29 November. 29/11/99

3. Devolution Order laid in British Parliament on 30 November. Royal Assent given on 1 December.

4. Shadow meetings of Northern Ireland Executive, North South Ministerial Council on 1 December.

5. Shadow meeting of British Irish Council will not be held.

B Whelan 29-11-99

6. Legal processes to be undertaken by the Irish and British Governments on 2 December.

Irish Government

Exchange of notifications to bring the British-Irish Agreement (made on 10 April, 1998) into force. This will be done by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in Iveagh House at 9 a.m. Attorney General will also attend. Agreement will enter into force as soon as exchange takes place. Other Agreements made on 8 March 1999 - on North-South Ministerial Council, British-Irish Council, British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference and Implementation Bodies - will come into force at same moment.

Signing of Commencement Orders for the British Irish Agreement Act, 1999 (Taoiseach) and the British Irish Agreement Act, 1999 (Minister for Finance). It is envisaged that this will be done either at or after Government meeting on 2 December.

Declaration by the Government to bring amendment of the Constitution into effect. This will be done at Government meeting at [9.45 a.m.].

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British Government

Entry into force of Devolution - assumption of legal powers by Assembly and Executive. Devolution will take effect on 2 December (i.e. after midnight on 1 December).

Exchange of notifications to bring the British Irish Agreement into force - North-South Ministerial Council, Implementation Bodies, British-Irish Council, British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference come into effect. As above for Irish Government.

Commencement Orders relative to the Northern Ireland Act, 1998 will take effect on 2 December (i.e. after midnight on 1 December). All provisions of the Act will then be in force.

7. Inaugural plenary meetings of the North South Ministerial Council, the British Irish Council and the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference in plenary (i.e. summit) format. The dates of the meetings are 13 December for NSMC in Armagh, 15 or 17 December for BIC and BIIGC in London.

8. Series of initial meetings of the North South Ministerial Council in specific sectoral formats will commence in January.

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