

restoring democratic government to Northern Ireland. This include guaranteeing civil and political rights to all parties, establishing North-South executive bodies to deal with common issues, reforming the Royal Ulster Constabulary, releasing paramilitary prisoners, and destroying paramilitary arms. The agreement has been ratified by referendums in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

- Following his appointment to the International Body and, subsequently, to the Office of the Independent Chairmen (for multi-party negotiations), General John de Chastelain was named head of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning. This group's mandate is to monitor, review, and verify progress on doing away with illegal arms held by groups on both sides of the conflict.
- Chief Justice William Hoyt of the New Brunswick Superior Court is one of two judges from Commonwealth countries working with a British judge to reopen the inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the shooting of 14 Catholics by British troops in 1972. This new inquiry into what has been termed "Bloody Sunday" holds great symbolic importance for both sides.
- Professor Clifford Shearing, head of the centre for criminology at the University of Toronto, serves in his private, expert capacity on a commission reviewing policing in Northern Ireland.
- Elections to the new Northern Ireland assembly have been completed. Once it is operational, the assembly will exercise local powers devolved to Northern Ireland in much the same fashion as to Wales and Scotland.
- Currently, the peace process is at an impasse. The main issue is that the Irish Republican Army has not yet begun decommissioning its arms. The U.K. and Irish governments, as well as the political parties, continue to seek a solution.