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pt Sinn Fein



# PRESS RELEASE

The following is the text of a statement issued to our office. 1st November 1993

Adams responds to Brussels Communiqué

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, speaking at a press conference today said:

Summary of Adams' statement

1. John Major cannot and must not be permitted to reject peace.
2. The process, the substantive issues and the dynamic contained in the Hume/Adams initiative provides the basis for peace.
3. The Brussels communiqué rejects the Irish peace initiative without offering an alternative.
4. Sinn Féin is firmly committed to the search for peace. If there is another initiative it will be given a fair hearing.
5. Major's dependency on the Unionists must not be permitted to dictate the British government's attitude to peace in Ireland.
6. A genuine peace initiative, to achieve its purpose, should contain a process, the substantive issues and the dynamic required to advance all parties to the conflict, towards a negotiated settlement and a lasting peace.

IMMEDIATE

F.A.O. GERRY CORR.

pl cc  
A/sec chairman  
Mr Donoghue  
Mr Kennedy  
lm/ll



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## The full text of Mr Adams statement

On September 25th John Hume and I issued a joint statement. In that statement we pointed out that our discussions, aimed at the creation of a peace process, which would involve all parties, have made considerable progress. In effect, we, as leaders of northern nationalist opinion reached agreement on a process which, if adopted by the two governments could lead us out of conflict and towards a real and lasting peace on this island.

After decades of conflict this is, clearly, a significant development. It has been warmly received both by nationalist opinion in Ireland, north and south, and by international political opinion. It has focused the minds of the London and Dublin Governments in an almost unprecedented way on the need for a real peace process. On October 3rd, the leadership of the IRA welcomed the initiative and pointed out that it could provide the basis for peace.

The response of the British Government to the developing peace initiative has been inexcusably negative and dismissive. Major's dependency on Unionist votes has obviously been a significant factor and this has been a matter of serious concern for those involved in the peace initiative.

In our joint statement John Hume and I recognised that 'the broad principles involved will be for wider consideration between the two governments'.

On Friday last Mr Reynolds and Mr Major issued a communique on these matters. Their joint communique clearly rejects the process outlined by John Hume and I, yet it offers no obvious alternative. I am satisfied that John Major has no real interest in developing a real peace process. I am certain that he is out of step with British public opinion on this issue. He cannot and must not be permitted to reject this opportunity for peace.



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Sinn Féin is firmly committed to the search for peace. If the governments have an initiative let us hear what it is. I have no interest in having my name attached to such an initiative. Neither, I am sure, has Mr Hume. Our interest is in building a real peace process.

Our primary concern (and the concern of everyone who has an interest in peace must be) at this time is to ensure that the substantive issues and the dynamic required to advance all parties to the conflict towards a meaningful peace process, are included in the thinking of the two governments and in any alternative, if they are considering an alternative, to the process proposed by Mr Hume and I.

Let me repeat that I am satisfied that Major is not interested in developing a real peace process at this time. Major's desire is to hold onto power. Party political interests and the Tory party's accord with the Unionists is dictating the British government's attitude to peace in Ireland. That attitude must be changed. I support <sup>Mr</sup> ~~John~~ Hume's efforts to do this.

There is an onerous responsibility on Mr Reynolds. It is obvious that the British government will seize upon any opportunity to divert attention from Major's reluctance to be part of a genuine peace process and in order not to be seen to have rejected an opportunity for a lasting peace.

Let me assure Mr Reynolds that I am anxious to ensure that any proposals he may have will be given a fair hearing by republicans. At the same time he must be aware that the seriousness of the situation and recent events demand urgent action from his government to focus the attention of the British government on its responsibility to play a leading role in removing the causes of conflict and division in Ireland. An endeavour by Mr Reynolds to do this would have my support. No one can be allowed to play propaganda games with a situation as serious as the one we are all faced with.

Two weeks ago I pointed out that we are at a crossroads in our history. An opportunity to create a real peace process clearly does exist. This requires courage and imagination particularly on the part of the two governments. In our proposals to them John Hume and I pointed a way forward.





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In the absence of any other initiative I reiterate my conviction that the process advanced by Mr Hume and myself contains the substantive issues and the dynamic required to advance all parties to the conflict towards a meaningful peace process.

Until we are persuaded that there is an alternative process this will remain my view and I am fully committed to pursuing it."

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