



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
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It's now six months since the leadership of Oglai na h-Eireann indicated its positive and flexible attitude to the developing Irish peace initiative.

We noted then that the principles and the dynamic underlying the initiative could, if the political will existed or could be created, provide the basis for peace.

Our public statement came in the wake of the announcement by John Hume and Gerry Adams that they had temporarily suspended their talks and had "forwarded a report on the position reached to date to Dublin for consideration". They added: "We recognise that the broad principles involved will also be for wider consideration between the two Governments".

We in the IRA leadership also received a full report of what was involved, and our positive attitude to these developments came because we felt that the processes, principles and framework involved could create the dynamic to move all involved away from conflict and towards a negotiated settlement.

The awaited response of the two governments came on December 15th with the Downing Street Declaration. Despite the negative attitude of the British government since then and their refusal to build on the opportunity for peace, the IRA wish to publicly note that our positive and flexible attitude to the peace process is an abiding and enduring one. This is evident from our responses to developments to date and in our continued willingness to be flexible and positive in exploring the potential for moving the situation forward.

There is a responsibility on the British government to move from its current negative stance. The people of Britain and of Ireland deserve better. The continued opportunity for peace should not be squandered. There is an urgent need to refocus attention and to move the peace process forward.

We, our supporters and our activists have a vested interest in achieving a just and lasting peace in Ireland. We are prepared to be flexible in exploring the potential for peace. All concerned should leave no stone unturned.

Our objectives, which include the recognition and the exercise of the Irish people's right to national self-determination are well-known. Our commitment and our unity of purpose remain steadfast.