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# PRESS RELEASE

The following is the text of a statement issued to our office. 9/2/94

Adams comments on Reynolds Letter.

Sinn Féin President, Gerry Adams has said today:

"I have already recognised and commended the Dublin Government for its commitment to the building of a real peace process and for its willingness to provide clarification, from its perspective, of the key areas contained in or relating to the Downing Street Declaration.

"I welcome this approach. I thank Mr Reynolds for his recent letter. The interpretation of the declaration outlined by Mr Reynolds in this confidential letter will allow for a more informed evaluation of the document and how its role in the development of an overall peace process.

"The willingness of the Dublin Government to provide such clarification underlines the absurdity of the British Government's refusal to do so.

"Why can John Major not follow Albert Reynolds' lead on this issue? This would allow Sinn Féin to conclude our process of consultation and consideration of the document.

"Without such necessary clarification it is extremely difficult for us. Demands that we do so in the absence of such clarity are unreasonable and a cause of suspicion in an already difficult climate.

"I have consistently pointed out in the past that it is counter productive to set deadlines. This is especially pertinent given the consistently obstructionist attitude of the British government to the peace process and the protracted crisis management of that government by the present Prime Minister John Major.

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Sinn Féin Press Centre  
51/55 Falls Road, Belfast  
PHONE: 230261 FAX:231723

*Mr Murray  
for information  
10/2/94  
JES:sm*



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"The unravelling of decades, centuries, of conflict and history is not made any easier by these factors.

"The role and influence of the Dublin Government is central to the peace process. Sinn Féin recognises this. I have stated this on a number of occasions and indeed in my speech to the National Committee on American Foreign Policy in New York I publicly acknowledge Albert Reynolds efforts.

"Indeed Sinn Féin has made the involvement of Dublin a central part of our peace strategy.

"This was clearly identified in our document 'Towards a Lasting Peace in Ireland' which said; 'Notwithstanding the overall responsibility of successive British governments for the creation and maintenance of conditions which have sustained the past 70 years of continuous conflict Dublin has a clear responsibility and a major role to play in providing the democratic resolution which will bring lasting peace'.

"There is wide public support for a peace framework based on agreement between the two governments and involving all the other parties in a process towards common policy objectives and within an agreed time frame. The importance of this should not be underestimated. Nor should any of us be deflected from the need to maintain and build upon this broad nationalist and democratic consensus.

"A lasting peace in Ireland cannot be achieved without British cooperation. The British Government should provide clarification. The lines of communication are still there to be used. It is Mr Major who is refusing to move forward.

Sinn Féin Press Centre  
51/55 Falls Road, Belfast