



An Chartlann Náisiúnta
National Archives

Reference Code: 2021/96/2

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Government Statement

The Government warmly welcome the decision of the IRA to end their 25 year campaign and to make a definitive commitment to the success of the democratic peace process. This momentous decision is in keeping with the overwhelming and heartfelt wish for peace of the vast majority of the Irish people over a long period, and will be greeted with enthusiasm by our friends and partners abroad.

The Government look forward to seeing the decision for peace being fully implemented on the ground, and to reciprocal action in good faith by all other groups engaged in paramilitary activity, as has been promised in the past. There is a heavy onus on all, on both Governments and all constitutional parties, to contribute actively to the consolidation of peace by a generous and flexible approach. The next step should lead to the negotiation on an all-round inclusive basis of a just and lasting political settlement between the people of Ireland North and South of all traditions.

There is now an historic opportunity to take the gun out of Irish politics forever, and to achieve a new and far-reaching political accommodation in Ireland in a transformed atmosphere. The aim of both Governments is an agreed Ireland, where the principle of self-determination is balanced by the requirement of consent.