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30 November 1994

Joint Statement from the Leader of the SDLP John Hume and
Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams

We have met to assess the peace process. It is clear to us that the unprecedented opportunity which has been created by the Irish Peace Initiative, the IRA announcement of August 31 and the Loyalist response to this, to peacefully and democratically resolve the causes of conflict, should be addressed energetically by all sides.

The search for a political settlement based on dialogue and agreement threatens no one. It will of course require courage, flexibility and imagination. There should be no stalling. It is essential that the British Government adopt a constructive approach by responding positively and enthusiastically to the new situation which has been created.

The demilitarisation process should be accelerated and inclusive negotiations aimed at securing agreement and an overall settlement should begin without further delay. The British Government has a key role to play in this. They can and should be persuaders for agreement between the Irish people.

A unique opportunity to put the past behind has now been created. It is essential that everyone responds to this new situation.

Ends



John Hume MP MEP Party Leader

Seamus Mallon MP Deputy Leader

Eddie McGrady MP Chief Whip

Member Party of the Party of European Socialists and Socialist International

