



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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**To:** Walter Kirwan, Martin Mansergh  
**cc:**  
**From:** Dr Albert Jordan  
**Date:** 13/05/98 15:08:17  
**Subject:** Sinn Féin and diminishing moderate unionist support of the agreement

I had a phone call this afternoon from a member of the public with unionist connections in NI. She did not give her name but was reasoned and level headed. She described herself and her NI friends as middle class moderate liberal people.

She was polite but obviously very concerned at recent events. She recounted conversations she had with her Unionist NI friends last week - they had decided to vote YES - after much deliberation. However, now after seeing the scenes of "triumphalism" at SF Ard Fheis they were "devastated" and aghast at the lack of sensitivity. Her friends yesterday told her that they "would now find it almost impossible to vote "Yes"." Regarding the release of the Balcombe St gang, she concluded that "the Taoiseach was not well advised."

She echoed the comments yesterday by Rev. Gordon Linney.

**The conclusion of a substantial number of moderates in NI is that SF still support violence. She said that "what would make a major difference - and persuade more unionists to back the deal would be if SF were to issue some words of remorse - like the PUP did"**