

CONFIDENTIAL



FROM: JONATHAN STEPHENS
Associate Political Director (L)
4 March 1998

PS/Secretary of State (L&B)

cc PS/Mr Ingram (L&B)
PS/Mr Murphy (L&B)
PS/PUS (L&B)
~~PS/Mr Semple~~
Mr Steele
Mr Thomas
Mr Bell
Mr Leach
Mr Ray
Mr Kelly (L&B)
Mr Brooker
Mr Hill
Mr Maccabe
Mr Perry
Mr Warner

Handwritten initials: JAS

RE-ADMITTANCE OF SINN FÉIN

I attach the draft form of words I read out at this afternoon's IGC pre-brief. This would be a statement by the Secretary of State to accompany any announcement of a joint invitation to Sinn Féin to rejoin the talks. The Secretary of State suggested that it might also form the guts of a letter to Ken Maginnis MP - I should be grateful if SPOB would provide a full draft of such a letter in the course of tomorrow.

2. It would be sensible to check that the Chief Constable was content with the attached statement - you or Mr Steele may have the best opportunity to do this in the margins of tomorrow's IGC.

(Signed JAS)

JONATHAN STEPHENS
11 Millbank
Ext 6469

CONFIDENTIAL

APDL/301

CONFIDENTIAL

POSSIBLE STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE

In reaching the agreed decision to invite Sinn Féin to rejoin the talks, I have taken fully into account the assessment of my security advisers on all the incidents of recent weeks since the murder of Robert Dougan. Although because sensitive intelligence is involved I do not intend to go into the detail of individual incidents, I can say that on the basis of the assessments I have received I have no reason to conclude that the IRA ceasefire is not being fully and continuously observed. It is on that basis that Sinn Féin have been invited to rejoin the talks.

CONFIDENTIAL

APDL/301