



GERRY ADAMS MP
SINN FÉIN
PRESIDENT

Paul Murphy MP
British Secretary of State
Castle Buildings
Stormont
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23/12/03

Paul, a chara

Thank you for your letter inviting our views on the agenda and conduct of the forthcoming Review of the operation of the Good Friday Agreement.

While welcoming this and the assertion by both governments that it will not be a review of the fundamentals of the Agreement we remain concerned that some parties may seek a renegotiation of the Agreement.

Both governments must continue to make clear that the Review will not be a renegotiation of the Agreement, nor can it act as a substitute for working political institutions.

Furthermore both governments have a particular responsibility to ensure that anti-Agreement parties do not use the Review for their own ends.

It is both unfortunate and disappointing that parties are considering their response to your letter in the context of a continuing suspension of the political institutions. This can only serve to encourage those who persist with a negative agenda and seek to veto the implementation of the Agreement.

The suspension is itself a breach of the Agreement and undermines substantially any assertion by the governments that its fundamentals are not up for renegotiation.

The suspension of the Assembly should be lifted immediately.

It is also important that both the format and the agenda of the review give a renewed impetus to the full implementation of the Agreement.

With particular regard to its format our view is that:

- The review should be time-limited to one month and its conclusions should be published promptly;

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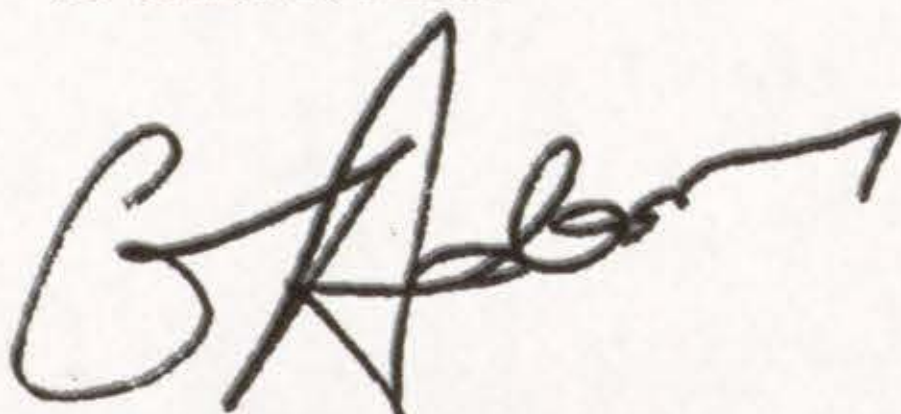
- Provision should be made for input from interested parties from civic society, including other political parties, the voluntary and community sector, campaign groups, business sector, church, equality and human rights organisations, trade unions.
- There should be dedicated meetings to discuss the various issues grouped under headings which bring together the different elements of the Agreement, such as set out below:
 - Political institutions
 - Human Rights and the Equality agenda including victims
 - Demilitarisation
 - The issue of arms
 - Policing and Justice
 - Prisoners and related matters.

With respect to the agenda for the review we believe it important that the following should be included:

- Re-endorsement of the GFA
- Suspension/ Suspension powers
- Voting arrangements in the Assembly
- Requirement to abide by the Ministerial Pledge of Office
- Nomination procedures to the NSMC and BIC
- Expansion of North South activity/structures
- All-Ireland parliamentary forum
- All-Ireland civic forum
- Referendum on Irish unity
- HRC – membership, powers and resources
- Equality Commission – membership, powers and resources
- Policing and Justice – full implementation of the provisions of the Agreement.
- Transfer of powers on policing and justice
- Prisoners
- Addressing the needs of Victims
- Irish Language
- Symbols and emblems
- The issue of arms
- Sanctions
- IMC

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Gerry Adams MP MLA
President Sinn Féin