

Jared FCO
NIO ✓

GERRY ADAMS

President of Sinn Féin

51/55 Bóthar na bhFál, Béal Feirste BT12 4PD

6/4/94.

Mr Major, a Chara,

I wrote to you last Wednesday after the IRA announced that they were to unilaterally suspend their activities for 72 hours in an attempt to break the stale-mate in the peace process.

To date I have received no response to my letter. Instead the public response of you and your ministers to this significant initiative on the part of the IRA has been negative and dismissive.

I am writing to you again to ask you to reflect on the seriousness of the present situation and on the opportunity to move out of the present impasse, provided by the IRA. I would again urge you to grasp this opportunity to move the peace process forward. You can best do so by authorising a meeting with representatives of Sinn Féin so that we can receive clarification of the Downing Street Declaration in the same manner it was provided to other political parties. Your refusal to do so up to now has created the present stale-mate situation. It is crucial to the peace process that this stale-mate be ended.

I have already made it clear that Sinn Féin has no great concern to be engaged in bi-lateral discussions on constitutional matters with your government. I have publicly outlined my position in this regard on a number of occasions. This is, properly, the business of talks involving the two governments and representatives of all the Irish people, including Sinn Féin.

This, however, is not the point of our reasonable calls for clarification. Clarification, clearly, is not negotiation. Clarification is required so that Sinn Féin, and everyone else, can properly and fully explore how the peace process can be moved forward at this time and, specifically, how the Downing Street Declaration fits into this.

Direct dialogue is the obvious and most effective method of providing the necessary clarification.

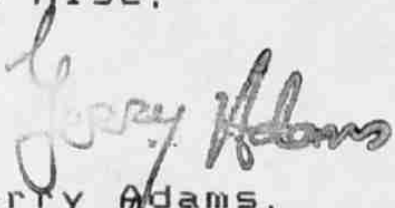
But, just as importantly, direct dialogue would also indicate a genuine interest, on the part of the British Government, in developing a real peace process through the essential recognition, by you, of our rights as a political party, the validity of our mandate and the integrity of our electorate.

We cannot accept a situation in which those who vote for our party are discriminated against and excluded from involvement in the political process.

I understand that you face many difficulties but I am convinced that the initiative taken by the IRA creates the opportunity for you to respond in a way which moves the peace process out of the present impasse. I would therefore urge you to reflect again on the the IRA initiative and on the opportunity it provides and to respond to it in a positive and imaginative way.

I look forward to your response.

Is Mise.


Gerry Adams.