

MR. PETER BROOKE - INTERVIEW - COI - LONDON - 27 MAR 91

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INTERVIEWER:

But if they turned round later on and said: "OK! We'll renounce violence!", is that the avenue they would have to have to go into these talks?

MR. BROOKE:

Whether it would be in these talks one can't tell because one does not know what in fact is going to be happening but what is absolutely clear is that until violence is renounced - and I don't just mean a ceasefire, I mean the laying down of arms - there isn't a place among the other constitutional parties for talking to Sinn Fein.

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INTERVIEWER:

So as far as the other political parties are concerned, you are looking for a decrease in violence?

MR. BROOKE:

Yes, in the sense that the purpose of the talks - in addition to the restoration of constitutional democracy in Northern Ireland - is to put further pressure on the terrorists and in that sense bring nearer the day when terrorism is brought to a conclusion.

INTERVIEWER:

The 1990s - what is your long-term objective in terms of the political development of Northern Ireland?

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