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Ulster Democratic Unionist Party
"Headquarters"
91 Dundela Avenue
Belfast, BT4 3BU

09/07/97

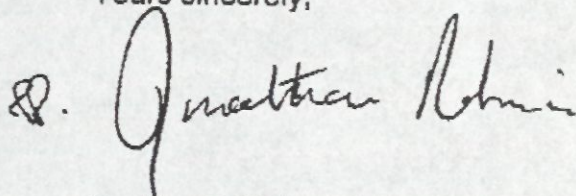
Dear Senator,

The DUP seeks from HMG on the record confirmation of its understanding in relation to the following questions:

- When must Sinn Fein/IRA respond to the Joint Paper? Does Her Majesty's Government regard the IRA's actions since the aide memoire was presented on June 13 as sufficient response?
- Will HMG demand a "genuinely complete, permanent" ending of violence from the IRA?
- Will there be immediate access to Ministers and facilities at Castle Buildings for Sinn Fein/IRA immediately upon the announcement of an IRA ceasefire?
- Will HMG confirm that Sinn Fein/IRA will not be allowed to pretend to detach itself from the IRA once admitted into the process? Upon entry to the talks will Sinn Fein/IRA be committing itself to secure IRA disarmament?
- Will assurances that in the event of IRA violence Sinn Fein will be excluded from the talks be adhered to and what procedures be used?
- Can HMG give an assurance that there will be no more meetings or other contact with Sinn Fein/IRA either at official or ministerial level in the light of recent murders and murderous attacks?
- What confirmation can HMG give that the joint paper will not be used to block the actual hand over of terrorist weapons by merely offering talks about decommissioning?
- Does the parallel process on offer mean that total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations represented at the talks will be a reality by the end of negotiations in May 1998?
- Does the proposed decommissioning subcommittee have any function with regard to the decommissioning process i.e. can it be used by those who do not want to see actual parallel decommissioning to block terrorist disarmament?
- Does the joint paper mean that delay in actual disarmament is unavoidable? Will the proposed commission be made operational immediately and will it be in a position to receive terrorist arms upon the launch of the "three strands"?
- What consultations do HMG intend to have in relation to the identity of commissioners?
- When will the statutory instrument establishing the commission be made and when will the Orders be made to give effect to any disarmament schemes?

- What assurances can be given to ensure that the Dublin government will not use paramilitary devices to delay the implementation of any decommissioning schemes in the South?
- Will there be a timetable for decommissioning? Can there be an actual parallel disarmament process without a decommissioning timetable?
- Has HMG received a specific assurance from Dublin that it is resolutely committed to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations concurrent with the political process?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ian R K Paisley', with a small circular mark to the left.

Dr Ian R K Paisley MP, MEP