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Statement from the leadership of the Irish Republican Army:

On August 31, 1994, the leadership of Oglaiġh na hEireann announced a complete cessation of military operations as our contribution to the search for a lasting peace.

After 17 months of cessation, in which the British Government and the Unionists blocked any possibility of real or inclusive negotiations, we reluctantly abandoned the cessation.

The Irish Republican Army is committed to ending British rule in Ireland. It is the root cause of division and conflict in our country. We want a permanent peace and therefore we are prepared to enhance the search for a democratic peace settlement through real and inclusive negotiations.

So, having assessed the current political situation, the leadership of Oglaiġh na hEireann are announcing a complete cessation of military operations from 12 o'clock midday on Sunday the 20th July 1997.

We have ordered the unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire of August 1994. All IRA units have been instructed accordingly.

(signed) P. O'Neill

Issued in Dublin to RTE.