



Dr Ian R K Paisley MP, MEP
256 Ravenhill Road
Belfast, BT6 8GJ
Tel: 01232 454255

12 September 1997

Dear Senator,

You will be aware from Press coverage of the nature and content of the leading article in the Sinn Fein/IRA publication "*An Phoblacht*". The article, a copy of which I attach, shows clearly that IRA/Sinn Fein are not committed to the Mitchell Principles and therefore should be disqualified from membership of the Talks Process. The Talks were based upon the "Entry to Negotiations Act" which requires that participants be committed to exclusively peaceful and democratic means. Both Her Majesty's Government and the government of the Irish Republic accept that there is no distinction to be drawn between Sinn Fein and the IRA, and the actions of one affect the status of the other.

In paragraph 29 of the "Rules of Procedure" for the Northern Ireland Negotiations it states;-

"If, during the negotiations, a formal representation is made to the Independent Chairmen that a participant is no longer entitled to participate on the grounds that they have demonstrably dishonoured the principles of democracy and non-violence as set forth in the Report of 22nd January 1996 of the International Body, this will be circulated by the Chairmen to all participants and will be subject to appropriate action by the Governments, having due regard to the views of the participants."

I note that the Rule does not require the formal representation to be submitted by a participant, either present or past, and accordingly I wish you to regard this communication as a formal representation to have Sinn Fein/IRA expelled from the Talks.

I shall look forward, without great expectation, to see the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ian R K Paisley MP, MEP
Leader of the DUP

cc Prime Minister