

Office of the Independent Chairmen

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Dr Ian R K Paisley MP, MEP
Leader
Democratic Unionist Party
256 Ravenhill Road
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September 16, 1997

Dear Dr Paisley:

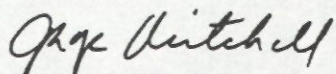
This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12 September, 1997.

In your letter, anticipating a question arising about whether the DUP is currently eligible to make a formal representation under rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure, you wrote: "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."

As you know, it has been my practice, whenever feasible, to solicit the opinion of each participant before making rulings. Thus, before I rule on the question of whether the DUP is eligible to make a representation, I have asked each participant for its view. So far, four parties have responded. I expect to hear from the other parties shortly. Should you wish to add to the statement on this question made in your letter, I will of course be pleased to hear from you.

As soon as I receive a response from all participants I will make a ruling and notify you promptly.

Sincerely yours,


GEORGE J. MITCHELL