

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

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Councillors and Constituency Officers for Belfast

The welcome finds of explosives, bomb making materials and firearms in London pose the following important question for the Government

What, in the light of these events, is a credible cease-fire?

The Government has said that in the event of a cease-fire Sinn Fein might be admitted to the talks. Sometimes they have referred to the necessary cease-fire as credible. Sometimes they have called for a restoration of the cease-fire of August 1994. But one of the IRA safehouses raided on Monday had been acquired two weeks after the beginning of that cease-fire. This confirms our knowledge that the August 1994 cease-fire was flawed from the outset.

A restoration of that flawed cease-fire would not be credible. It is for Sinn Fein to find the words that would be credible in the light of all the behaviour of the IRA, but the Government must tell them that a mere repetition of the words that prefaced the flawed cease-fire of August 1994 would now be wholly inadequate.

What we will want to hear is that all forms of terrorism are over for good. And those words will have to be matched with deeds.