

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

From: John D TAYLOR, MP for STRANGFORD
Speaking in his Constituency on Saturday 11 5 1996
he said:

USA and All-Party Talks at FORUM

I want to caution Ulster Unionists against the the campaign by the Irish Government to have the USA Senator MITCHELL appointed as Chairman of Strands 2 and 3 of the All Party Talks.

Senator Mitchell has produced a report on the De-Commissioning of Illegal Arms but it would be an entirely different matter to have someone from the USA Chairing Talks which will determine the Constitutional Future of Northern Ireland.

Ulster Unionists welcome the belated efforts of the USA to extend parity of esteem to the majority community in Northern Ireland. We appreciate the invitations to Ulster Unionists and the British Ambassador to the Annual White House St. Patrick's Day Reception - but it was the first time ever.

This welcome gesture by the USA cannot remove the political reality that the predominant sympathy in USA politics is for a United Ireland. That is the theme which would influence and USA Chairman of the Talks - that is why the Irish Govt. want Senator Mitchell. Instead the Government in London has a responsibility to seek out a genuine impartial chairman.

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