



ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY

PRESS RELEASE

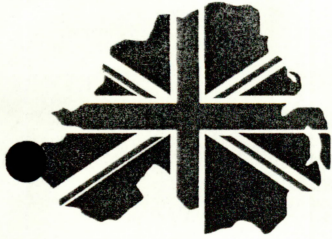
16 September 1997

Release time : Immediate

The following is an open letter written by UUP Leader Mr David Trimble MP to the Talks Chairman Senator Mitchell, making a formal complaint against Sinn Fein's participation in the Talks Process.

Leader of the Party: DAVID TRIMBLE, MP
Patron: THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MOLYNEAUX OF KILLEAD, KBE
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Senator Mitchell
Chairman, Multi-party Talks
Castle Buildings
Stormont

Dear *George*

We were surprised last night when you informed us that those present at yesterday's Plenary were of the view that the DUP could not make a representation under rule 29 that Sinn Fein were no longer entitled to participate in the talks.

The DUP were the recipients of an invitation from the Secretary of State to the talks. That invitation has not been withdrawn. They have made their commitment to the principles of democracy and non-violence. That commitment has not been dishonoured. They are therefore entitled to participate in the process, an entitlement not ended by their stated withdrawal. Consequently we consider that they are presently entitled to participate without further action on anyone else's part.

Indeed we are surprised that those present on Monday did not welcome the DUP complaint as a sign of continuing participation in the Talks.

In any event we consider that the matter should be considered on its merits and not disposed of on a technicality.

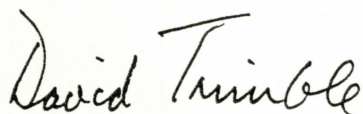
Therefore irrespective of your ruling on the DUP complaint, we now represent to you that Sinn Fein are no longer entitled to participate.

We do this on two grounds.

First, the statement last Thursday in the official newspaper of Sinn Fein was a repudiation of the commitment on Tuesday to the principles of democracy and non-violence. Alternatively, taking together the statements of Tuesday and Thursday, there has not been a genuine commitment to those principles.

Secondly, the bomb attack in Markethill this morning. You will recall that this Party recently warned that there would be resumption republican violence, responsibility for which would not be admitted. Consequently the absence of a recognised codeword for another paramilitary organisation, together with the geographical location of the incident, are clear prima facie evidence of Sinn Fein/IRA involvement.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Trimble". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

David Trimble MP