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HUME/ADAMS MEETING WITH IRA LEADERSHIP

The meeting which took place between the SDLP Leader and IRA terrorists has been a diversion from events of yesterday when our Prime Minister and the Taoiseach of the Irish Republic set out, conditionally, a date for all-party talks.

Despite having alleged delay by our Government and by Ulster Unionists over the ceasefire period, it is now becoming obvious that it is Sinn Fein/IRA which is unable to respond to the offer made by the two Governments.

The reiteration of the, "IRA's commitments to its republican objectives", is not a simple restatement of aspirations but an ominous threat that violence will continue so long as it fails to achieve its objectives.

With the support of only 4.8% of the total electorate the IRA is not going to achieve its objective of a United Ireland; it knows that and, with its ethos of violence, it is unlikely that it will act in the best interests of society in Northern Ireland.

Failure to even hint at the resumption of a ceasefire is hardly encouraging.

29 February, 1996.

Alfred Ray
Alce Selby
Ann Clapham

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