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**Transcript of John Alderdice
on the steps of Government Buildings
on Monday 18th November 1996**

John Alderdice:

.... and without that we are not going to move forward at all.

Journalist:

Well if the IRA did declare another unequivocal ceasefire, how soon do you think Sinn Fein should be allowed into the talks?

John Alderdice:

Well I think that what we have got is a situation where the Republican Movement has betrayed those who have tried to work with them in the past. They have a credibility problem. They have got to persuade us. Now if I was to start setting down for you ways in with they could persuade us of course I would be accused of creating preconditions. Well I am not interested in creating preconditions. I am interested in honesty, reality, and integrity. And I am prepared to say to the Republican Movement, Ok, you convince us, you come forward, we will let you decide what way you want to convince us. But convince us you must do, because when we have taken you on trust in the past you have betrayed those who took that trust. I am not going to make prescriptions. You are trying to get me to try and create preconditions and I am not interested in doing that. But I think it is entirely justifiable when we say to persuade us.