# SF proposals and SDLP detailed response

DURING THE TALES between and Huith disengagement, Sinn The Irish will also argue that they 5/11 will competent to the full the right to self-determination, would make the following enthe SDLF and Star Fein, the Irish and the SDLF would agree haven't, the British will always with Sinn Fein in ensuring that there is a major difference be, posses to any party interested in SULP declared its belief that IO\_A\_COMMING\_PARAGETER of political appears that they have, and both activity, which would already argument will be based on diller studied to support livib unity and the inferests of the inferest of the infe influence Unionists to accept interests are interests are interests are interests are served by a new Ireland. In the larest set of document to be plasted set of the interests are interest, and in properties on the real problem larest set of document to be plasted bullets, strip-searching. It is much better to deal with the creation of the interest that in that is a properties of the interest in the interes that agreement on how the right to self-determination in Ireland should be exercised could not be achieved by force.

The SDLP gave a detailed reedy to seven proposals by Sinn Lein in its initial document, "A Steam by The Irish Times on September

SINN FEIN PROPOSALS SET OUT IN "STRATEGY FOR PEACE"

1. That Sinn Féin and the SDLP agree with and endorse the internationally established ciple of the right of the high corle to national selfdetermination.

That Sinn Fein and the SDLP agree that Britain has no legitimate right to be in Ireland. That Sinn Féin and the SDLP acree that the IRA is politically motivated in its actions and that IRA volunteers are not criminals

That Sing Fein and the THE PROPOSALS Still P agree that the British Gov. ne not in a peace-beeping role

rule out nationalist participation in a developed or internal Six-County attangement actually encontages the British to pursue protract the conflict.

That Sinn fein and the SDLP agree on a common colution to the political situation That Sinn Tein and the

SDIP join forces to impress on the Dublin Government the need to launch an international and diplomatic offensive to secure er it determination.

prisoners, SOSP's and lifets less debate about idéological UDR, the PIA, the FPA, the The rea UDR, the FIA, the FPA, the He real question is line to be Fauncit of Debt Act, discriminal end the limitsh presence in lice nomic cutbocks in the health? land? ery for Peace" (published in full service, changes in social security laws, cultural rights, etc.

## SDLP COMMENTS ON SINN TEIN PROPOSALS

The SDIP has no phiection and indeed would be willing to work with Sinn Pein or any other party to develop a strategy towards the achievement of agreed common objectives. We would make it clear, however, that we would be working together on exactly the same terms - using democratic and peaceful methods and without any links or associations with any paramilitary organisations or with support of approval for such

1. The SDLP view is that the coment and its forces in Ireland. Irish people do have the right to self determination. The problem is 5. That Smn Tein and the that the Irish people are divided excuse paramilitary violence as a SDLP would agree that failure to as to how that right should be legitimate response. Both are exercised. The real search for counter-productive and create peace, justice and stability in barriers to achieving political pro-treland is the search for such press. agreement. In the Sizial view this has always been the case and has military and armed police never been faced up to in any presence on the streets, together serious way by nationalist of republicans in Ireland, thus it the presence which weight so heavy real challenge facing all of its it on the already disolvantaged cannot be pursued by "a med people represented by SDLP and

consistent weakness in the that the season for that presence nationalist / republican approach, on the streets and conscound The tendency to get lang up on activity is the IRA campaign, then abstract principles such as remove the stated justification by In the interior, between the whether or not the British have a ending the campaign. In the event concerned that while we are both preceding of a common strategy legitimate tight to be in the people have

nationalist unemployment, eco behind a stable and peaceful lie-

Answer: Unite the people Ireland first / What in fact we thould all by discussing is how we achieve that objective and how e can presnade Britain to acciet in actuering that objective.

the IRA may be politically motivated, no legitimacy can be conferred on its actions. In do so would concede the right of the majority of the Irish people to determine the means by which agreement in Ireland can be pursued to an unrepresentative and non-elected, non-accountable

paramilitary organisation.

4. The SDLP view is that violence only produces further violence. The most effective resconse in violence in Northern seland is non-violence, despite the temptation to do otherwise.

Condemning the violence perpetrated by British forces cannot

The speediest way to settle the with all the consequences of that Sinn Fein, is the political way, If This question underlines a the British Government states

of the cressure of the military and I to obtain the agreement of Union pulitical presence our own siew proude 51nn Fein confuses two on that is contained in our stees exercised by Unionists original document and in our The Unionists base a natural answer to 3 and is indeed central

to our whole political strategy and

analysis these anyone doubt that the achieved. people who are suffering most. The Unionists have also, histhe people of nationalist areas? Ate there not grounds for ending that war by using the exact same easons as Padraig Mac Piarais and his countrides in the GPO in 1916 when they laid down their arms lest they bring suffering on

or a purely internal settlement, a matter for those who want it. the only people who do so are dent Morthern Ireland. The SDI.P. has repeatedly made clear that in pro-lirsh unity in their relationships between Ireland and policies. Our task is to persuade Iritain, as well as relationships them to go in that direction and in within Ireland, need to be the all their considerable influresolved satisfactorily if there is fence and resources to pursuade

the first paragraph.

7. The SDLP is prepared to enter into meaningful discussions with any political party which and in which there is teceives a popular mandate and relationship with Britain. which uses democratic and peaceful methods, with a view to ful methods, with a view to volcy. They are coals which we working for agreement in Iteland believe can only be achieved by To this end the SDLP would also join such parties to seek international support as would be appropriate.

SDLP - Sinn Féin 1.3 June, 1988

COMMENTS ON SINN TEIN DOCUMENT, 2 MAY, 1988, PAGES 8 AND 9

From our discussions it has

Aith Sinn Vin in ensuring that there is a major difference be posals to any party interested in the proper in all preas are relieved, tween us on line necessary, it is achieving these same ends to the property of the interest of the inter

seto since they live on this island and since their agreement is essential if unity is to be

was in Northern Ireland are policy towards Ireland, a veto to which they had no right whatsoever. That yeld was evercised in that British policy denied trish unity. Up until now successive British governments have been pro-Union. Now, however, they are neutral in that they are saving, without taking a pon-5. The SDLP has never argued from themselves, that frish unity is

there is, therefore, nothing to to be a lasting peace and stability. the Unionist people that their best, 6. This proposal is answered in j interests are served by a new Ireland: a new Ireland in which Unionist interests are accommo-I dated to their own satisfaction

persuading those who do not.

inese are the goals of SDLP political means and which have to be achieved by political means if praceful Ireland It goes without saying that if a new Ireland is to be built politically, it should be as painless as possible for the people who have suffered so much. It must also involved the progreswhich have grown up between people in post-partition Ireland.

### SDLP PROPOSALS

1. Concerted political action, atmed police presence. We have lists if there is to be unity in nationally and internationally, to persuade the British Government little doubt that in such circum treland stances that object could be United Section matter it appears achieved very quickly. As to the '40,05 that in tecpur, with many crummitment to and action towards, propressively breaking down the barriers between both parts of Ireland-that have develoned since 'partition and to using all the influence and resources to persuade the Unionist people that their best interest lies in a new Ireland which accommodates their interests to their satisfaction and which has a new relationship with Buttin

2, Concerted action to persuade the Unionist people to join together with us in building a new ireland

I In the interim concerted political effort, nationally and internationally, to alleviate the which affect all our people

## CONCLUSION

We wish to reiterate the very strong view that is central to all our discussions with you, that the right to self-determination and the exercise of self-determination depend on reaching agreement between the people of this island as to how self-determination is to be achieved.

It must be clear that such agreement cannot be achieved by and in which there is a new force. In stating that we are simply testating what was said by Tone, two centuries aen, when he was quite explicit in stating that the way to achieve the right to self determination of the people was to unite Catholic Protestant and Dissenter. The same sentiments were repeated a century later in Bellast by Parnell when he said that "Ireland can never be united and can never have its freedom until the reciudices of the Protestant people are consiliated."

Are we at last ready to take up the challenges thrown down by both men and which have never really been taken up by the To the ends outlined above we republican Ireland?

## SF says Unionists have no right to maintain partition

Sinn Fein document, "Persuad. ine the British - A Joint Call

Sum fein would like in explore the SDLP assertion that "Butain is now saving that she has no and that her only interest is to see accement among the people who thate the island of Ireland.

If this is the case land Sine I'ein remain unconvinced that it is tof then it would appear that there is currently an opportunity and an urgent need to test the SIMP assertion by Mempting to that the best was to see agree ment among the people who share the island of Ireland" is for Notan to dopt a policy of earling the much of the coptest of a

heland on how this can be accomplished

achieving it should be a matter of formal spreement between the and the British government. The search for such percement must of course involve Hustbern Protestants and every effort mult be made to get their agreement and involvement in the constitutional, financial and political arrangewhatever arrangements energy too partition and the union in

from such delderations from such delilerations reperition to a national instority.

IIII following is the text of the actively seek agreement arrong objective becomes British policy Sim Fein document, "Persuad, the people who share the island of and while the democratic policy contained in it is continued throughout its implementation Once this is the British object there must be due provision for tive the strategy for enarcyced for the rights of Houthern Protestants and every effort made to win their consent. By adopting such a policy the British would be

While such a security may appear improbable at present surely if Britain new has no self interest in being in Ireland it must have an open mind on the future of Ireland and be open to such a ments needed to replace patition, proposition. In this proposition, Furthermore, regardless of heir we are restating the nationalist attitude to such attangention, and democratic position that the their rights must be guaranteed in Unionists have no tight to main

consent of Northern Protestants, government whose selection like any other interest cropp, is desirable on the constitutional, financial and political arrangements needed to end partition. It self determination and on the a responsibility of all Irish democratic position that Britain democrats to guarantee that all Irish people are treated consilly.

Sinn Tein has long accepted that Horthern Protestants have land based on these principals and fears about their civil and telirious liberties. We have consistently insisted that their liberties

The fundamental Republican and nationalist position has always been to get Britain to unden its partitionist policy and gr instead a policy of with

geated towards persuading the firtish government to adopt a policy of disengagement in the must be guaranteed and contest of Irish reunification seems to us to be a fundamental part of a nationalist strategy towards justice and peace.

Maximum colitical units in Ire-

As a step towards such strategy which is the stated aim of our distinctions, and as an explorwaster from Ireland and handing ation of the SDIP's assertion over overeignts to an all-Ireland, requiling the current British post-

would be a democratic matter for and the SDLP jointh issue a call the Irish people. This position is to the Dublin and Lunden por based on the principle of national ernments for them to consult together to seek agreement on the policy objective of high reunificahas no legitimate right to be in tion. Having agreed this, both envernments would issue a public statement outlining the steps they intend taking to bring about a peaceful and orderly British political and military withdrawal from Ireland within a specified period.

> The adoption of such a position by Sinn Tein, the SDLP and Dublin government would advance the situation, concentrate everyone's aid not least the Unionists put the responsi British government

IRISH TIMES 14/9/1988