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To: Taoiseach

From: Gerry Cribbin

**Comments by John Major on Sinn Féin participation in Talks**

As requested, I have obtained a transcript of John Major's interview on ITN News last night. RTE News this morning reported that Major said in that interview that he wanted rapid movement from the procedural stages of those talks to the more substantive issues and that Sinn Féin will remain outside those talks for as long as 'Sinn Féin and the IRA are both sides of the same coin'. Neither of those statements were made in that interview. The former, while averred to, was in fact made in the House of Commons during the Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday. Regarding the latter, ITN have confirmed for me that the Prime Minister did not make the alleged comments regarding Sinn Féin in the course of last night's interview.

The relevant transcripts are attached.

Gerry Cribbin  
19 July 1996