

DRAFT

Contact with Sinn Féin

Following the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire on 9th February, the Government decided that it should terminate all Ministerial contact, but maintain limited official contact, with Sinn Féin.

Official contact was maintained in the belief that it would be more likely to be of assistance to Sinn Féin in ^{ensuring} ~~persuading~~ the IRA ^{restored} ~~to restore~~ the August '94 ceasefire than would a policy of total refusal of Government contact.

The Government has done everything possible to facilitate Sinn Féin's entry into the negotiations launched on 10 June. Sinn Féin have been provided, through official contacts, with all the information they could possibly need to make a decision to go to the IRA and seek a restoration of the complete cessation of violence which they announced in August, 1994.

The Government is seriously concerned that, despite this, Sinn Féin has ^{not yet got} ~~clearly~~ ^{murder} ~~not managed to persuade~~ the IRA to restore the ceasefire. The ~~killing~~ of Garda McCabe in Adare, the serious injuries inflicted on Garda O'Sullivan and the bombing outrage in Manchester in which hundreds of people were injured, provide no grounds for confidence that ~~the IRA intends to allow~~ Sinn Féin to follow the road of peace and democracy.

can, with credibility,
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