

19/02/97

11:16

NO. 488

001

44 1232 231723

97 02/10 11:52

cc FA/APS

Press

GERRY ADAMS
SINN FÉIN
PRESIDENT

Prime Minister

10 February 1997

Mr John Major MP
10 Downing Street,
London.

Mr Major, a chara,

As you will know from previous correspondence and in keeping with normal democratic practice, it is my view that Sinn Féin should be involved now in the talks process. Your government's policy prevents this and denies our electorate their rights.

I know also that you are fighting an election campaign and that it appears that this is taking priority over the question of peace in my country.

It is my view that peace making should not wait until after the elections.

I am prepared therefore, as I have told you before, and, in keeping with Sinn Féin's commitment to dialogue and to democratic means to resolving conflict, to ask some of my colleagues to engage in discussions with your officials in an effort to find a way to restore a proper peace process.

These discussions would be without prejudice to the rights of our electorate and because of our party's commitment to a peace settlement.

I would be pleased therefore if you would reconsider your position and authorise your officials to enter into this dialogue.

Is mise,

Gerry Adams.

Sinn Féin 31-33 Bóthar na nEalaí, Béal Féinn, Co. BT12 4DD

Phone: 01223 313131 Fax: 01223 313132