

TRANSCRIPT OF GERRY ADAMS SPEAKING ON EVENING EXTRA, BBC RADIO
ULSTER, MONDAY 6 JANUARY 1997

Sean Rafferty

Well at a press conference earlier this afternoon the President of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams, described the attack as a regrettable symptom of the problem faced by all sides. He said there would be a peace settlement but that different factors were preventing this happening right now.

Gerry Adams

There is a certain dynamic in a conflict situation. It can go forward in terms of moving towards a peace settlement or it can go backwards in terms of moving towards conflict. We were able to create a dynamic which moved it forward towards a peace settlement. That was ambushed by John Major and Patrick Mayhew. They destroyed that opportunity and the vacuum has now been filled. The genie, in many ways, is back out of the bottle. I want to see that rectified. I think we will still be able, when all of the main players focus their attention and their wills, we will still be able to bring about a negotiated settlement. In the meantime, we are living once again in dangerous times.

Sean Rafferty

When asked about the recent threats of a return to violence by the Loyalist paramilitaries the Sinn Fein President said he was concerned but that this was not the first time there has been talk of a return to Loyalist violence.

Gerry Adams

The Loyalist cessation was always a tactical one although I welcome it and I like to think that I was part of the influences which helped to create conditions where it was brought about and that it has been a matter of continuous threats on an ongoing basis right back into the winter of 1994. I mean it isn't that the Loyalist have just killed one person, they have killed 4 or 5 people. There have been bomb factories caught here in the North and also in England and what it points up is that the Loyalists in many ways, as far as the British establishment are concerned, are a dodgy wing of that establishment.