

*Martin McArdle can keep her baby.*  
**CALL TO TAOISEACH**

- Election prospects in two countries.
- President Robinson stepping down – is she looking for a UN job?
- Grateful for your robust stance on IRA violence and Sinn Fein propaganda about the “wasted 18 months of the ceasefire”. Also valuable that you have stressed importance of consent principle.
- Glad that soft landing for talks successfully achieved, with all parties ready to come back on 3 June. Good that Mitchell, Holkeri and de Chastelain all ready to go on. *Quite a lot of progress made. Gap - used by Govts.*
- Helpful that we two and the Americans are very much on the same line. Must try to stick together as far as possible.
- Frustrated at lack of progress, like you, but still believe that the talks process is the best way forward. Will have to make a real effort on decommissioning in the summer.
- See no mileage in new initiatives at this stage (bound to be rejected by one side or the other), though obviously we may have to look again if the talks make no progress after the elections. [If necessary: Any settlement will have to be operated by local politicians, so going over their heads, though attractive, is dangerous.]

*[Private.]*  
*Summit post remains talks.*  
*Can't wait until the start of discussions.*  
*look @ de-conv, impact on life of Mitchell.*  
*Time frame/calender for talks*

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- Hope for new and lasting IRA ceasefire but not much sign, either on the ground or from intelligence. Some kind of tactical halt to violence for electoral reasons, whether explicit or not, cannot be ruled out.
- Looking carefully at Hume/Adams questions and ready to respond in positive terms. Still want Sinn Fein in. But has to be on a proper basis and not prepared to chase after them. Will respond positively and as rapidly as we can if there is a genuine ceasefire.
- [If raised] Bloody Sunday: reviewing new evidence as we said, with an open mind. But bound to take some time, and complicated by application for Judicial Review of Widgery Tribunal.
- [If raised] North Report: hope to announce establishment of Commission very soon, but not easy to find good volunteers. Consultation period on adjudication powers finishes at end of this month.
- [If raised] Roisin McAliskey: aware of your concern. Concerned myself to get balance of normal procedures and humanitarian issues right. Believe going in right direction to avoid a free PR run for Sinn Fein. She will not be shackled during birth and believe she will be allowed to keep her baby.

→ now confirmed and announced this afternoon.

PRESS HANDLING?

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