

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ANNEX B

DRAFT LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE IF SINN FEIN
ARE ADMITTED TO TALKS

Mr G Adams MP

Under the terms of section 2 of the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc) Act 1996 I am writing to you as the nominating representative of Sinn Fein. Sinn Féin was among the parties for which delegates were returned in the elections of 30 May 1996. The then Secretary of State refrained under section 2(3) of the Act from inviting you to nominate a team to participate in the negotiations, however, because he believed that in the case of your party the requirements of paragraph 8 and 9 of Command paper 3232 were not met. Those requirements include, in respect of Sinn Fein, the unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire of August 1994.

On 19 July 1997, an announcement was made in the name of the IRA of an unequivocal restoration of the 1994 ceasefire. I have in the period since then sought to assess whether the requirements of the Command paper are now met in respect of Sinn Fein. I have concluded that they are.

I now therefore invite you under section 2(2) of the Act to nominate a team to participate in the negotiations. The negotiating team must under the Act be composed of delegates returned at the elections. There is no limit to the number of delegates who may be included (though the rules of procedure of the talks provide for limits on the size of a party's team for any one meeting).

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It would be helpful to have your nominations in good time for the resumption of the plenary session of the talks on 9 September.

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