

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

ANNEX C

STATEMENTS BY SINN FEIN

Commitment to Exclusively Peaceful Methods.

- (1) "We want a permanent peace" IRA Ceasefire Statement

19/7/97

- (2) "The IRA have said that they will no decommission a single bullet and I have not heard any statement from them saying they have changed their position on that."

Martin McGuinness

Interview with Sky TV, 20/7/97

Quoted in *The Guardian*, 21/7/97

NB: Martin McGuinness stated, in interview following meeting with SoS on 6/8/97, that he had been misquoted on this.

- (3) SF councillor apologised to Protestants in Maghera and Swatragh for "wanton acts of sectarian vandalism" by nationalists on the night of July 6th. He said that such statements were anti-social, anti-democratic and anti-republican. "To deliberately target the homes and property of your neighbour on the basis of their religious convictions is anathema to republicans and besmirches the republican ideal of 'Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter' living on this or any other part of the island under the common name of Irishman."

John Kelly (Magherafelt Councillor)
reported in the *Irish Times* 25/7/97

- (4) "Disarmament has to be part of the negotiations. John Hume and I are trying to end the violence permanently. To end it, finito, forever. ... I will resign as president of Sinn Féin if any aspect of the Republican organisation is involved in protectionism. ... And of course I would put an end to punishment beatings that occur within the Catholic community. ... I want to use whatever influence I have to try to bring about a peaceful environment in Northern Ireland."

Gerry Adams

Interview with John Kennedy

The George (US monthly journal), August 1997

21

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

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

- (5) "The great challenge which remains is to remove the causes of conflict by making real progress towards a lasting peace settlement. ... Irish republicans want peace. ... We want an end to conflict, and end to division."
Sinn Féin Position Paper
handed to SoS on 6/8/97
(Introduction)
- (6) "Everyone shares the responsibility to bring about a real and lasting peace in Ireland. Republicans have demonstrated the will to face up to our responsibility in this."
Sinn Féin Position Paper
handed to SoS on 6/8/97
(Item 1)
- (7) [On decommissioning] "We will deal with all issues comprehensively and honestly."
Gerry Adams
interview for the *New York Times* 10/8/97
- (8) "The IRA's view is that a hand-over of weapons would be a surrender."
Martin McGuinness
BBC TV Newsnight Debate, 12/8/97
- (9) "The IRA leadership's decision is a major contribution to the ending of the conflict but clearly not an end to the conflict. ... It is self-evident also that peace requires the demilitarisation of our society. In every sense. ... The deployment of military and paramilitary forces must cease."
Martin McGuinness
Viewpoint, *Irish News*, 20/8/97

22

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

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

Abiding by the Democratic Process

- (10) "A just and lasting settlement will only be achieved if it is based on principles of democracy and equality and has the allegiance of both traditions."
John Hume & Gerry Adams
 Joint Statement, 18/7/97
- (11) "We are prepared to enhance the search for a democratic peace settlement through real and inclusive negotiations."
IRA Ceasefire Statement
 19/7/97
- (12) "We must not lower our expectations or be conditioned into accepting anything less than full freedom, equality and democracy. We must have credible, inclusive and meaningful negotiations."
Martin McGuinness
 quoted in *An Phoblacht*, 24/7/97
- (13) "We will abide by what the people of Ireland want. There's no way we would want to foist or to impose in any way any particular view which we may have of a future society in Ireland. Let the people decide, but let it be the people of this island and not politicians from a neighbouring island who decide the future of Ireland. ... Sinn Féin will certainly be there [at the Talks on 15/9] and as I have said we will do everything that we can to encourage the unionists to be there also. ... Sinn Féin is very, very open to listening and to learning from the experience of other sections of our people, especially the unionists, who have fears and whose trauma we have to understand as we seek to build a new beginning for everyone on this island."
Gerry Adams
 on 'Talk of the Nation' (phone-in with Ray Suarez)
 National Public Radio, USA, 28/7/97
- (14) "I think many Unionists have genuine fears. ... Protestants are genuinely afraid of what's to come. ... This places a huge onus on Republicans to ensure that we'll genuinely create a society that's based upon equality. A free Ireland will never be truly free unless it embraces all the people of the island."
Gerry Adams
 Interview with John Kennedy
The George (US monthly journal), August 1997

23

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

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

- (15) "We have to reach across this chasm and seek with honesty and in good faith to understand where we each stand, what we feel, believe and desire. ... We are not saying to unionists to forget your past, forget the pain in your community, forget your part in our collective history. You are an intrinsic part of Ireland and its history for close on five centuries. This is your home. We have embittered each other by our actions and inactions. It is time to end the hostility."

Jim Gibney

Senior Sinn Féin Strategist speaking at a
Commemoration for Kevin Lynch, 3/8/97
quoted in the Irish News, 4/8/97

- (16) "Dialogue is the only way to peacefully resolve the many differences between us. We look forward to a positive engagement which we hope will move the peace process forward. ... We will ... approach these negotiations in a constructive, responsible and determined manner. ... Sinn Féin wants to see the Unionist parties at the negotiating table in September. ... Sinn Féin is not threatening the unionists' heritage or identity. Unionists are an intrinsic part of Ireland. This is your home. Republicans don't want you to leave it nor do we wish to dominate you. You have a right and a responsibility with the rest of the Irish people to shape our shared future. We acknowledge our responsibility, as part of a reciprocal process, to try to convince unionists of our good intentions with regard to their future on this island"

Sinn Féin Position Paper
handed to SoS on 6/8/97
(Introduction)

- (17) "Our long-standing position has been one of willingness to enter into dialogue with a view to removing the causes of conflict. Democratic, political and practical imperatives clearly require the involvement of all political views if a democratic resolution is to be sought and achieved."

Sinn Féin Position Paper
handed to SoS on 6/8/97
(Item 2)

24

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

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

- (18) "The route to peace in Ireland is to be found in the restoration to the Irish people as a whole of our right to national self-determination. ... Agreement on how the right is to be exercised is a matter for the Irish people alone to determine."

Sinn Féin Position Paper
handed to SoS on 6/8/97
(Item 4)

- (19) "No one can have a veto over the negotiations or over their outcome. If they are to be successful, inclusive negotiations must address all relevant issues without vetoes, without preconditions and without any attempt to predetermine the outcome."

Sinn Féin Position Paper
handed to SoS on 6/8/97
(Item 9)

- (20) "We recognise that the concerns of the unionist population about their position in an Irish national democracy must be addressed and resolved in a concrete way. ... This process of national reconciliation must secure the political, religious and democratic rights of the northern unionist population. That is not only the democratic norm but a practical necessity if we are to advance the cause of peace in Ireland."

Sinn Féin Position Paper
handed to SoS on 6/8/97
(Item 10)

- (21) "The most urgent issue facing the people of Ireland and Britain is the need for a genuine peace process which sets democratic equality, justice and political stability as its objectives and, has as its means dialogue and all-embracing negotiations in the context of democratic principles."

Sinn Féin Position Paper
handed to SoS on 6/8/97
(Item 11)

- (22) "When the negotiations begin on the 15th of September the Ulster Unionists and indeed all of the other unionist parties should be at the negotiating table fulfilling the democratic mandate that they have from the people who elected them."

Martin McGuinness
Interview following meeting with SoS, 6/8/97

25

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

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

- (23) "We want to see the consent or the assent of all sections of our people. But we're totally opposed to this notion that the unionists have a veto. ... This six county statelet ... hasn't worked. So we need something new and the task of finding something new is the challenge for the people in the negotiations and the unionists should meet that challenge by being present there to educate us, to talk to us, to bring us round to their frame of mind and we want only the opportunity to do the same thing with them"

Gerry Adams

Interview following meeting with SoS, 6/8/97

- (24) "We understand that [unionists] are fearful of what the future would hold for them in a new political entity. But I can assure them that we do not want to dominate or humiliate unionists ... We want to build an Ireland or equals. ... I want them to negotiate that change, so that together we can map out a future for our children where they can live and play side by side in peace and harmony as equals in their own land."

Martin McGuinness

speech in Co. Leitrim 8/8/97

taken from the *Irish News* 9/8/97

- (25) "We want the Unionists at the talks. ... [David Trimble] should be there, not in the corridor, not in a separate room, but across the table from us."

Gerry Adams

Interview for the *New York Times*, 10/08/97

- (26) "Our message to the unionist people is one of brotherhood and sisterhood, facing the future together. Unionists must be at the talks table ... it is all our futures that we seek to address. We do not seek domination."

Caoimhghin O Caoláin TD

Internment Anniversary Rally

quoted in the *Irish Times* 11/8/97

26

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