

David Kyle, NIO
we spoke for Hulse
187.

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to NIO.

I welcome today's announcement which is good for the people of Northern Ireland and for the people of Britain. Together with the courageous Orange Order decisions of last week, it creates a new mood of hope for peace and a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland.

Obviously we will want to monitor the ceasefire with great care. What we and others want to see is an end to violence for good, and an irrevocable commitment to peaceful means. Meanwhile we remain determined to get the substantive political talks under way in September, as we have said. Whether Sinn Fein will be there depends on whether the ceasefire is genuine in word and deed, as we have always said. I hope they will be, but we will reach a judgement on whether they should be invited to the talks over the next six weeks.

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