

PARAGRAPHS 7 TO 9 OF POSSIBLE TEXT IN RESPONSE TO HUME
TEXT OF 10 OCTOBER

7. Both Governments consider that, following the declaration by the IRA of an unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire with the stated intent of never resuming the conflict, the process of Sinn Fein's entry into negotiations could be as follows:

- Meetings with Sinn Fein to explore with them the nature of the ceasefire, what assurances could be given and confidence-building measures established;
- the British and Irish Governments would invite Sinn Fein to meet them together for the purpose of making a total and absolute commitment to the principles of democracy and non-violence, a commitment already made by all the current participants who could also be present at this meeting;
- the two Governments would report this commitment to the independent chairmen and invite them formally to notify the other participants;
- the two Governments would then propose bilateral and other consultations to seek to determine how, if Sinn Fein entered, the negotiations could most constructively be advanced, including the issue of the participants adopting an agreed indicative timeframe for the conduct of the negotiations and for taking stock of their progress;

8. The satisfactory conclusion of this process would turn on whether words, actions and all the circumstances were consistent with the declared ceasefire. For example, whether or not any paramilitary activity, including surveillance,

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targeting and weapons preparation, continued would be relevant. Developments which were incompatible with an unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire or Sinn Fein's commitment to the Mitchell principles would affect the process of entry adversely. Sufficient time would have to be taken to ensure the requirements of paragraphs 8 and 9 of Command Paper 3232 were met before Sinn Fein were invited to participate in negotiations.

9. From their entry into negotiations onwards, Sinn Fein would, in common with all the other participants, be subject to all the agreed provisions and rules of procedure. These include those governing the contingency where any participant is no longer entitled to participate on the grounds that they have demonstrably dishonoured the principles of democracy and non-violence.

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