

19. Feb. 1998 19:12

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FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

No. 2063 P. 2/2

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AC*

John Holmes Esq CMG
10 Downing Street
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SW1A 2AA

19 February 1998

Dear John

Sinn Fein's Determination - David Trimble's View

David Trimble rang just before 4.00pm today to ask if we would be making any announcements soon (about Sinn Fein's continued participation in the Talks). I said that we had not yet reached a conclusion in our deliberations.

Mr Trimble then said that he had heard from some press sources that the Governments were thinking of including a date for re-entry. He said it would be an appalling misjudgement if this happened. He went on to say that he had also heard March 10 mentioned specifically for re-entry and, if this was the case, then it would be a misjudgement of 'historic proportions' and there would be serious trouble over it.

I said that we would of course keep him informed of any final conclusions.

As my Secretary of State mentioned to you on the phone subsequently, we would suggest using "sometime in March" rather than being tied to a specified date.

*Yours
Gareth*
W K LINDSAY

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W K Lindsay

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