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that the IRA will unequivocally renew theirs as soon as possible
so that the dialogue...so that real dialogue can get underway in
all sides and expose those who don't want dialogue.

Rachel English

Mr. Hume, you've talked about the dialogue that you've had with
members of Sinn Fein. A British newspaper on Sunday said that
both Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams were leading members of
the IRA, what do you make of that?

John Hume:

Well, a lot of strange things have been appearing in newspapers
over the last month or two and I find them very strange and I've
no comment to make on them at all. I have always assumed that
Sinn Fein is the political wing of the Republican movement and
that the IRA is the military wing of the movement and as far as
I'm concerned if you're a member of Sinn Fein or a member of the
IRA, both you support the strategy and tactics of that whole movement.
I don't know whether or not the two men you mention are actual
members of the army council or not, I simply don't know that but
what I do know is and I've assumed this all along in my whole approach
to strategy is that Sinn Fein are the political voice of a movement
which has a military voice called the IRA and that they speak with
the same voice when it comes to the politics of our situation.

Rachel English:

Finally, Mr. Hume, we spoke earlier about the forthcoming general
election. There has been some speculation about whether or not
you will be standing, do you intend to stand again?

John Hume:

Well, first of all I'm not getting into any speculation of any
description when the elections is called our party will take our
decisions. I am of course heavily burdened with the work that
I have in terms of the European Parliament, the British Parliament,
leadership of my party and of course all the local work that one
has to do in politics up here. Politics here are not quite the
same as they are down where you are because down where you are