

## RTE News Report - Tuesday 10 December 1996

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### Tommy Gorman

Yesterday's failure by both Governments to agree on when Sinn Féin can enter the talks process, and today's announcement that Law and Order is to be restored as a top priority for Government spending in the North, has led Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness to accuse the British Government of seeking an IRA surrender.

### Martin Mc Guinness

"I think that the announcement today, coupled with the very hard line position adopted by John Major, over the course of the last couple of weeks, clearly shows that what the British Government are looking for from the IRA is the white flag of surrender, it's not a ceasefire at all, they are actually looking for surrender. The negativity doesn't come from the Irish Government in my opinion, on this issue, it comes from the British Government."

### Tommy Gorman

And he believes there's no question of an IRA ceasefire until London softens its approach.

### Martin Mc Guinness

"That of course does mean hoping to achieve a second IRA cessation, but we in Sinn Féin will not be in a position to do that unless the British Government empower us, and unless the British Government soften what is a very hard-line position indeed."

### Tommy Gorman

Earlier Secretary of State Sir Patrick Mayhew said he regretted having to put Law and Order as the top priority on the North's spending plans for the next three years. For this he blames the abandonment of the IRA ceasefire and the disturbances during the summer. He said Drumcree alone has cost £40m! An extra £120m is to be spent on security at the expense of job creation, schools and hospitals.

### Sir Patrick Mayhew

"The IRA in particular, and those responsible for this summer's disturbances, bear a heavy responsibility to everybody and it constitutes a grievous ....."

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