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- If you can clarify to Sinn Fein that it could enter talks as late as the end of January or even mid-February, there is a good chance the IRA will then reinstate its ceasefire. The natural break in the talks formed by Christmas then allows you to assess the reliability of the ceasefire.

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- We know the differences you face, but we fear that without some measure of clarity on when Sinn Fein could enter talks, the IRA will never call a ceasefire and the peace process could collapse.

# MAJOR

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