



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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# Ulster Unionist Council

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16 September 1997

Senator Mitchell  
Chairman, Multi-party Talks  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont

Dear *George*

We were surprised last night when you informed us that those present at yesterday's Plenary were of the view that the DUP could not make a representation under rule 29 that Sinn Fein were no longer entitled to participate in the talks.

The DUP were the recipients of an invitation from the Secretary of State to the talks. That invitation has not been withdrawn. They have made their commitment to the principles of democracy and non-violence. That commitment has not been dishonoured. They are therefore entitled to participate in the process, an entitlement not ended by their stated withdrawal. Consequently we consider that they are presently entitled to participate without further action on anyone else's part.

Indeed we are surprised that those present on Monday did not welcome the DUP complaint as a sign of continuing participation in the Talks.

In any event we consider that the matter should be considered on its merits and not disposed of on a technicality.

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Leader of the Party: DAVID TRIMBLE, MP  
Patron: THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MOLYNEAUX OF KILLEAD, KEE  
President: JOSIAS CUNNINGHAM, DL MA      General Secretary: JIM WILSON



Therefore irrespective of your ruling on the DUP complaint, we now represent to you that Sinn Fein are no longer entitled to participate.

We do this on two grounds.

First, the statement last Thursday in the official newspaper of Sinn Fein was a repudiation of the commitment on Tuesday to the principles of democracy and non-violence. Alternatively, taking together the statements of Tuesday and Thursday, there has not been a genuine commitment to those principles.

Secondly, the bomb attack in Markethill this morning. You will recall that this Party recently warned that there would be resumption of republican violence, responsibility for which would not be admitted. Consequently the absence of a recognised codeword for another paramilitary organisation, together with the geographical location of the incident, are clear prima facie evidence of Sinn Fein/IRA involvement.

Sincerely

*David Trimble*

David Trimble MP

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**Dr Ian R K Paisley MP, MEP**  
256 Ravenhill Road  
Belfast, BT6 8GJ  
Tel: 01232 454255

12 September 1997

Dear Senator,

You will be aware from Press coverage of the nature and content of the leading article in the Sinn Fein/IRA publication "An Phoblacht". The article, a copy of which I attach, shows clearly that IRA/Sinn Fein are not committed to the Mitchell Principles and therefore should be disqualified from membership of the Talks Process. The Talks were based upon the "Entry to Negotiations Act" which requires that participants be committed to exclusively peaceful and democratic means. Both Her Majesty's Government and the government of the Irish Republic accept that there is no distinction to be drawn between Sinn Fein and the IRA, and the actions of one affect the status of the other.

In paragraph 29 of the "Rules of Procedure" for the Northern Ireland Negotiations it states:-

*"If, during the negotiations, a formal representation is made to the Independent Chairmen that a participant is no longer entitled to participate on the grounds that they have demonstrably dishonoured the principles of democracy and non-violence as set forth in the Report of 22nd January 1996 of the International Body, this will be circulated by the Chairmen to all participants and will be subject to appropriate action by the Governments, having due regard to the views of the participants."*

I note that the Rule does not require the formal representation to be submitted by a participant, either present or past, and accordingly I wish you to regard this communication as a formal representation to have Sinn Fein/IRA expelled from the Talks.

I shall look forward, without great expectation, to see the outcome.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Ian R K Paisley MP, MEP**  
Leader of the DUP

cc Prime Minister

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