



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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from Martin,  
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Memorandum

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19-8-98

P Statement of 16 August and the analysis  
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light of the referendum and the clearly expressed wishes of the people of this  
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qualifying prisoners are the establishment and maintenance of a complete and  
unequivocal ceasefire. It is therefore important that a ceasefire statement and  
the intent behind it should be clear and unambiguous and not open to any other  
interpretations or subject to conditions of any kind. The Agreement also  
provides for the situation in regard to the maintenance of a complete and  
unequivocal ceasefire to be kept under review.

Subject to that, qualifying prisoners would be eligible to benefit from the  
review process as well as the provision for the release two years after the  
commencement of the scheme of any remaining prisoners under the terms of  
the Agreement. Releases will be phased over the two years, taking account of  
the seriousness of the offences for which the prisoner was convicted and the

for 2001 offer  
to be made

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Memorandum

The Government welcome the IRSP Statement of 16 August and the analysis which it contains, calling on the INLA and all other Republican Groups 'to accept that there is now no basis for armed struggle and to desist now' in the light of the referendum and the clearly expressed wishes of the people of this island.

Under the Belfast Agreement, the main criteria governing the release of qualifying prisoners are the establishment and maintenance of a complete and unequivocal ceasefire. It is therefore important that a ceasefire statement and the intent behind it should be clear and unambiguous and not open to any other interpretations or subject to conditions of any kind. The Agreement also provides for the situation in regard to the maintenance of a complete and unequivocal ceasefire to be kept under review.

Subject to that, qualifying prisoners would be eligible to benefit from the review process as well as the provision for the release two years after the commencement of the scheme of any remaining prisoners under the terms of the Agreement. Releases will be phased over the two years, taking account of the seriousness of the offences for which the prisoner was convicted and the

need to protect the community. On that basis, all eligible prisoners who were prisoners at the time of the Agreement will be eligible to have their cases referred for review where they have a consistently well established affiliation to a qualifying organisation.

If the Government is satisfied that there has been a complete cessation of paramilitary activity, a basis will exist for favourable consideration of applications for parole for pressing family reasons, with each case being considered on its merits.

The Garda authorities are willing to contact the French authorities with a view to facilitating the return of human remains to their family in a specific instance. While not being in a position to guarantee positive results, the Government strongly favour in principle the return of the bodies of victims who have disappeared to their families, and believe this should happen, for humanitarian reasons, without prejudice one way or the other to the eventual pursuit of criminal proceedings.

The Government would regard a complete and unequivocal INLA ceasefire an important step in building confidence between the communities and of benefit to all. The Agreement contains a broader conception of democracy, including

provision for civic participation, to which the Government hopes all political forces will contribute, irrespective of whether they politically support or oppose the Agreement, and whether or not they are directly represented.

Representatives of the Government will be available in a peaceful context to discuss the concerns of any organised section of political opinion in the North that is prepared on an ongoing basis to contribute to the establishment and maintenance of peace.