



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

① = Martin Howard, CC 60
NIO
(by fax)
John 20/5.

20 May 1996

Rt Hon John Major MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Prime Minister

You will be aware that Sinn Fein has issued a statement to the effect that it now accepts the Mitchell Report.

I welcome the fact that any Party accepts Senator Mitchell's Report. However I believe there is an attempt being made by Gerry Adams to separate himself from the IRA. To the UUP no such separation is possible as Sinn Fein and IRA are one and the same organisation.

I am requesting therefore that you give me an assurance that the statement made by both Governments on 28th February 1996 will be honoured in full, and that Sinn Fein will not be allowed to the Talks table unless an IRA ceasefire is in place, and that Sinn Fein /IRA as a whole must accept and honour the Mitchell Report as a pre-requisite to full participation in the Talks process.

I look forward to your reply,

Yours sincerely

David Trimble
Leader, Ulster Unionist Party.

PP

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Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

DATE: 20 May 1996

RELEASE TIME: IMMEDIATE

Statement from David Trimble on Sinn Fein and Mitchell Report

I welcome the fact that any group or party should accept the Mitchell report with all that that implies, however as Sinn Fein/IRA is the one organisation all the conditions set out by the two governments in their statement of 28 February must continue to apply, namely:

1. In order for Sinn Fein to participate in the talks process there must be a ceasefire in place.
2. Sinn Fein/IRA as a whole must accept the Mitchell report and implement and honour same

No play acting exercise by Mr Adams to avoid the real issues is or will be acceptable to the Ulster Unionist Party. This afternoon I have been in contact with the Prime Minister's office seeking his assurance that Her Majesty's Government will not give way on these matters. My concern is that elements within the Northern Ireland Office will be tempted to allow Sinn Fein to reach the talks table by the back door.

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