

The British Government's policy remains as stated in Parliament and the points below correspond with that policy.

It is important that practical arrangements should be made to ensure that any ceasefire did not break down. While consideration is being given to the statutory position in a situation of genuine and sustained cessation of violence the ceasefire will be carried on by administrative methods using the arrangements for communication and monitoring which would be set up. Discussions between officials ~~and~~ members of legitimate organisations would be needed on a number of points including the following considerations.

1. In a situation of genuine and sustained cessation of violence no existing organisations would be proscribed. There would be no restrictions on freedom of movement and there is no question of those wishing to return home to live in peace being harassed by the Security Forces.
2. In a situation of genuine and sustained cessation of violence and an agreed ceasefire in operation no action by the Security Forces would be authorised which could be interpreted as harassment of the civilian population.
3. The action of the Security Forces is related to the level of any violent and hostile activity which may occur. If there is no such activity there will be no operations other than against law-breakers.
4. The only arrests will be arrests of people for breaking the law. Interim Custody Orders will not be signed if there is no violence.
5. Following a genuine and sustained cessation of violence, screening, photographing and identity checks will be ended.
6. The law provides for permits to be granted for people to carry arms for self defence. The issue of firearms permits will take account of the risk to individuals. The need to protect individuals who may be at risk of assassination is recognised.
7. There is no question of the Security Forces undertaking provocative displays of force.
8. The preservation of the peace is in everyone's interest. Policing and community peace-keeping if they are to be effective must be achieved by co-operation area by area over a period of time.
9. In a sustained ceasefire misunderstandings must be avoided between the Security Forces and others to ensure that it did not break down. This will require practical and effective arrangements.
10. If there is a genuine and sustained cessation of violence and hostilities the Army would gradually be reduced to peace-time levels and withdrawn to barracks.
11. Discussion will continue between officials and representatives of Provisional Sinn Fein and will include the aim of securing permanent peace.
12. A genuine and sustained cessation of violence would require the ending of all offensive operations and hostilities such as the following.
13. A cessation of the intimidation of the public and of murders, woundings kneecappings, kangaroo courts and all other assaults on the person.



14. A cessation of armed robberies and hi-jackings.
15. A cessation of the illegal purchase, manufacture and holding of arms, ammunitions and explosives.
16. Once violence has come to a complete end, the rate of release will be speeded up with a view to releasing all detainees.