After four hundred years of conflict between the Irish and the British, the final experiment, the Devolutionary Six County State ended in chaos with the suspension of Stormont on 24th of March 1972.

The Republican Irish have waged a war against British Rule for the last 21 years. Both sides agree that there will be no "Winners". We, The Irish, have asked for dialogue. You, The British, have demanded an "End to Violence" as a precondition. We have offered a "Halt" to offensive military actions to enable dialogue to begin. You have accepted.

All the political parties in Ireland, North and South, agree that the problem is complex. The Ulster Unionists disagree, to them the way forward is a "Return to Stormont". This can never be accepted.

The question is: How do you, The British, intend to proceed during this rare moment of quietness in Ireland?

If the answer to this question is that you intend to use this peaceful space to try again to restructure "The Six County State", then history will again repeat itself in Ireland.

The Republican Irish will resume the war.

If the answer to our question is that you, The British, are prepared to enter into dialogue with the representatives of all the strands of Irish political thought and to continue with that process, long and difficult as it must be, until a way forward emerges, then we, The Republicans, will work with you, The British, towards a lasting peace in Ireland. An example to the many conflict centres in the world today. A lead to be followed.

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## 15 April 1993

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