

"FURTHER TALKS CARDS"

Spring subpoenaed

A subpoena was delivered yesterday to Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, by defence lawyers representing Martin McMonagle from Derry and Liam Heffernan from Belfast who have gone on trial at the Old Bailey in London on charges of conspiring to steal explosives and possession of firearms in England. The subpoena was issued by the Old Bailey on Friday.

Defence lawyers will say that both men were lured to England by Patrick Daly, an MI5 agent who has admitted working for British Intelligence for four years and a key prosecution witness in the case. They hope to force Mr. Spring to reveal how much the Dublin Government knew of the activities of Pat Daly.

While a subpoena issued by the Old Bailey has no legal standing in the Republic, the defence lawyers believe that failure to attend the trial would reflect badly on Mr. Spring.

The Court heard yesterday that MPs, the military, oil terminals and a ferry were among the targets of an INLA bombing campaign in Britain. The prosecution alleged that an INLA unit was sent to Britain to steal explosives from a Somerset quarry.

Meanwhile, Mr. Spring is expected to give a written answer to the Dail today to a question by Tony Gregory about the Irish Government's knowledge of Daly's activities.

— McGuinness

SINN FEIN'S Martin McGuinness said last night that he believed that further talks between Sinn Féin and the British government were "very much on the cards" despite accusing the British government of telling "lie after lie" over the detail and substance of the talks to date. The Derry Sinn Féin representative claimed his party Féin had substantial materials relating to the dialogue and contact which would give lie to the statement by Sir Patrick Mayhew to the British House of Commons yesterday.

In his statement yesterday, Sir Patrick read out what he claimed was a communication sent on behalf of the I.R.A. by Mr. McGuinness in February this year seeking advice on how to end the conflict here. Mr. McGuinness said this statement was "counterfeit and a lie." Mr. McGuinness also accused the British government of fabricating a story that the I.R.A. sent a further similar communication in November this year.

by
Domhnall MacDermott

Mr. McGuinness who revealed twelve days ago that he personally had been involved in "direct and protracted" talks with the British government, said Sinn Féin reserved the right to issue the materials relating to the dialogue to date at any future stage.

Claiming that the talks had been initiated by the British government using a line of communications which had been

in existence for two decades, Mr. McGuinness dismissed British government claims that the talks were a result of I.R.A. requests for assistance in regard to ending the conflict here. He accused British government of telling lie after lie "to disguise its rejection of peace in Ireland."

However, he did not rule out further talks. He said: "It was obvious from yesterday's debate in the British House of Commons that the overwhelming majority of MPs accepted the inevitability of further discussions between Sinn Féin and the British government. No one could rule out further discussions, in fact I would very much rule them in."

Running scared

Mr. McGuinness accused the British government of "running scared" and not being prepared to face "the reality that the Hume/Adams process offers the

only substantial basis for a just settlement to the conflict here."

He predicted that further developments would have to wait until after the summit meeting between British Prime Minister John Major and An Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds. The summit was scheduled for this Friday but it is thought that the British government may postpone the meeting.

There was uproar in the British House of Commons yesterday when DUP leader Rev. Ian Paisley was forced to leave the Chamber after refusing to withdraw his remark that Sir Patrick Mayhew had told the House a "falsehood" when he said previously that no talks had taken place between the British government and the I.R.A.

Last night Downing Street said the channels of communications to the I.R.A. remained open.

For further coverage of recent developments, see Pages Two and Three.

Rising Sun remands

Five men facing charges arising out of last month's UFF gun attack on the Rising Sun Bar in Greysteel were further remanded in custody when they appeared in Court in Belfast on Friday. Four are accused of murdering all seven victims of the attack. One of them is also

accused of murdering the four workmen shot dead by the UFF in Castlerock in March this year.

None of the men spoke as each of them was brought separately for the short remand hearings at Belfast's Crumlin Road courthouse. They were all remanded in custody for a further three weeks.

Two die in crash

A 63-year-old retired fisherman and his 50-year-old sister-in-law were killed on Friday night when the car in which they were travelling collided with a lorry at the Laghey junction, approximately four miles outside Donegal Town.

William McCallig, Station

Road, Mountcharles, who was the driver of the car, died instantly while Ann McCallig, St. Commis's Hill, Killybegs, the only passenger in the car, was pronounced dead on arrival at Sligo General Hospital. The driver of the lorry was not injured.



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Civic visit: The Mayor and Mayoress of Warrington John Taylor and Kath Taylor, read a book on Belfast presented to the couple by the Lord Mayor of Belfast Councillor Reg Empey, during a Press reception for a civic delegation from Warrington on a two-day visit to Belfast.

Warrington group makes plea for closer contact

By Mary Kelly

MEMBERS of the Warrington Project are determined to build relationships to achieve a greater understanding between Ireland and England, its chairman, Mary Greenslade said today.

The Mayor of Warrington, councillor John Taylor, his wife Kath and John Donlan, an uncle of Jonathan Ball, one of the two boys killed in the Warrington bombing are with Mrs Greenslade as part of a delegation from the project on a two-day visit to Belfast.

Councillor Greenslade and another committee member will be staying until Thursday to set up contacts with education, youth and community relations groups in the city.

"There was a great outpouring of interest immediately after the bombing, but I

think we have been able to build on that to set the foundations for a very worthwhile relationship between our communities," she said.

Honour

The project, set up in honour of the two young victims of the bombing, aims to promote understanding by breaking down traditional prejudice, misunderstanding and stereotypes.

It is organising school, sporting, cultural and civic exchanges between Warrington and Belfast.

"We will be meeting members of the Corrymeela community and All Children Together as well as other community groups, during our visit," Mrs Greenslade said.

"We have a sizeable Irish community in Warrington and there were already a number of long-standing links between various organisations which we hope to build on."

Local Tories say Mayhew must go

MEMBERS of the Conservative Party in Northern Ireland have called on the Government to remove Sir Patrick Mayhew as Secretary of State.

Vice-chairman of the South Belfast Conservative Association Esmond Birnie said local members "have had their stomachs turned" by revelations about Government links with the IRA.

"The distinction between prolonged exchanges of notes and face-to-face negotiations is so fine as to be minimal. Sir Patrick should go," he said.

Duplicious

"In fact, not since Neville Chamberlain's policy of Appeasement in the 1930s has the

Tory party been so misled by a clique of secretive, duplicitous and irresponsible Ministers plus senior advisers.

"We Conservatives in Northern Ireland have been very tolerant in putting up with the Secretary of State. Perhaps too tolerant. This is only the latest in a chain of blunders."

Propaganda

Mr Birnie claimed Sir Patrick had handed the IRA "a propaganda victory" which would give its campaign "renewed energy" and warned of the consequences.

"Sadly, the so-called loyalist terrorists will read the lesson violence pays," he added.

"For honour and credibility to be restored, Sir Patrick should go."

McGuinness denies making 'conflict over' statement

Mayhew claim 'counterfeit'

By Vincent Kearney
Political Correspondent

A DOCUMENT claiming the IRA told the British Government in February "the conflict is over" has been described as "counterfeit" by leading Sinn Fein member Martin McGuinness.

The claim was contained in more than 30 pages of messages passed between the Govern-

ment and Sinn Fein during the past 10 months, released by Secretary of State Sir Patrick Mayhew yesterday.

Two of the notes published referred to verbal messages the Government claims it received from the IRA.

But Martin McGuinness, the man named as saying "the conflict is over" and asking for advice on how the IRA could "bring it to a close", has rejected the claim.

"The text he read is totally counterfeit. No such communication was ever sent."

He added: "His claim that a communication of November 2 to the British Government was from Sinn Fein is equally bogus."

Mr McGuinness claimed the Government was "counterfeiting their own documents to meet their current needs" and also disputed Government versions of other communications.

Yesterday, Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams also denied the party had sent a message to the Government on November 2.

He claimed a document from the Government on November 5 — offering "exploratory dialogue" with Sinn Fein if there was a permanent end to IRA violence — had raised suspicions because it had come "out of the blue".

Mr Adams also claimed the IRA had agreed to a Government request for a two week ceasefire in May.

But he alleged the Government had "reneged" on the agreement and "walked away from the opportunity".



Martin McGuinness: Disputing claims.

Conflicting messages in talks documents

By Press Association

This is what the Government and the IRA have been saying to each other through various sources over this year. In some cases, the Government version given here is contradicted by Sinn Fein.

February 22 1993:

The Government says the IRA sent an oral message saying: "The conflict is over but we need your advice on how to bring it to a close. We wish to have an unannounced ceasefire in order to hold dialogue leading to peace."

Tricked

It offers a private renunciation of violence "as long as we were sure that we were not being tricked".

Sinn Fein says that text is "a counterfeit". Leading member Martin McGuinness claims it was never sent.

February 26: Government replies that it wants to take IRA's offer "seriously and at face value".

March 5: IRA offers two representatives — McGuinness and Gerry Kelly — for an exploratory meeting between the two sides.

March 11: Government refers to "continued violence of recent days", and warns: "There must be some evidence of consistency between word and deed."

March 19: The Government says: The Government insists dialogue can only take place after "an unannounced halt to violent activity". It has "no blueprint" for a peace deal. The eventual outcome of

peace process could be a united Ireland, but "unless the people of Northern Ireland come to express such a view, the British Government will continue to uphold the union".

Sadness

In a speaking note accompanying this written message, Government warns the process is "fraught with difficulties" and violence would only enhance the problems.

Sinn Fein says: "They are now counterfeiting their own documents to meet their current needs."

March 22: In oral message IRA expresses "total sadness" for Warrington bombing two days earlier. "The la needed at this sen was what has happened."

May 5: Government warns further progress cannot be made unless violence is genuinely brought to an end.

Crucial

May 10: The Government says: The IRA welcomes "face-to-face exchanges" with a Government representative. (The Government says this was an unauthorised meeting between Mr McGuinness and a British official).

The IRA adds: "We are prepared to make a crucial move if a genuine peace process is set in place."

They ask a number of practical questions such as where the meetings will take place, and say a small secretariat has been established to assist in agreeing an agenda and format for meetings.

Sinn Fein says: On May 10 it told the Government it agreed to a two-week ceasefire for talks to take place. It claims the



Under pressure: Sir Patrick Mayhew speaking in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon

Government later "reneged" because of Tory difficulties at home.

June 1: The IRA expresses its "dismay" that it has received no reply.

July 11: The IRA complains about leaks about the contacts to journalists.

July 17: The Government explains delay in replying to the IRA's May 10 message, saying it has been considered at the "highest level".

Dialogue could only start after an assurance that organised violence had come to an end.

July 22: IRA issues an 11-point paper setting out its position and says Irish unity is "inevitable". It offers to be "as reasonable and flexible as possible" in the search for peace.

August 14: IRA accuses Government of increasing "inflexibility". It claims the Government previously indicated a two-week suspension of violence could accommodate talks.

September 3: The Government denies it said a two-week suspension of violence would accommodate

talks and insists violence must be ended before any process could start.

November 2: Shortly after the Shankill Road bombing:

Progress

The Government says the IRA complains: "Now we can't even have dialogue to work out how a total end to all violence can come about. We believe that the country could be at the point of no return."

Sinn Fein says: There was no communication to the Government on that date.

November 5: The Government says: If violence is brought to a total end and Sinn Fein commits itself to political progress by peaceful and democratic means alone, Government would be prepared to enter exploratory dialogue.

After the assurance of a ceasefire, Government would make a public statement and enter dialogue with IRA "within a week of Parliament's return in January".

Sinn Fein says: Leader Gerry Adams claims the British document received on November 5 was sent "completely out of the blue".

Backlash 'may have dashed peace hope'

By Desmond McCartan,
Westminster Correspondent

JOHN Major's Government today stepped on a hazardous tightrope in a battle of wills with the IRA leadership which will test the credibility of possible fresh overtures for ending violence.

The recriminations over previous Government contacts with the Provisionals may have dashed any realistic prospects of a halt to violence in the near future, officials admit.

And, amid further signs of unionist mistrust and suspicion of the Government's motives, Mr Major is also under SDLP pressure to forge, with Dublin, a new framework for a political settlement.

Policy

But Downing Street sources today were still unable to say when Mr Major would announce that his talks with Mr Reynolds, earmarked for Friday, would go ahead.

That was taken as a signal of the extent of the arm wrestling over the ground rules for the Dublin summit.

But, as Mr Major deliberately kept open the door for any new move by the IRA, he faced more warnings about the potential risks involved.

Unionist MP William Ross said Government policy over 20 years had been fundamentally flawed, "and this is simply another aspect of it".

Calling for the removal of the officials involved, he said: "I believe it is foolish and wrong to talk to the terrorist organisation because you only encourage them."

Line

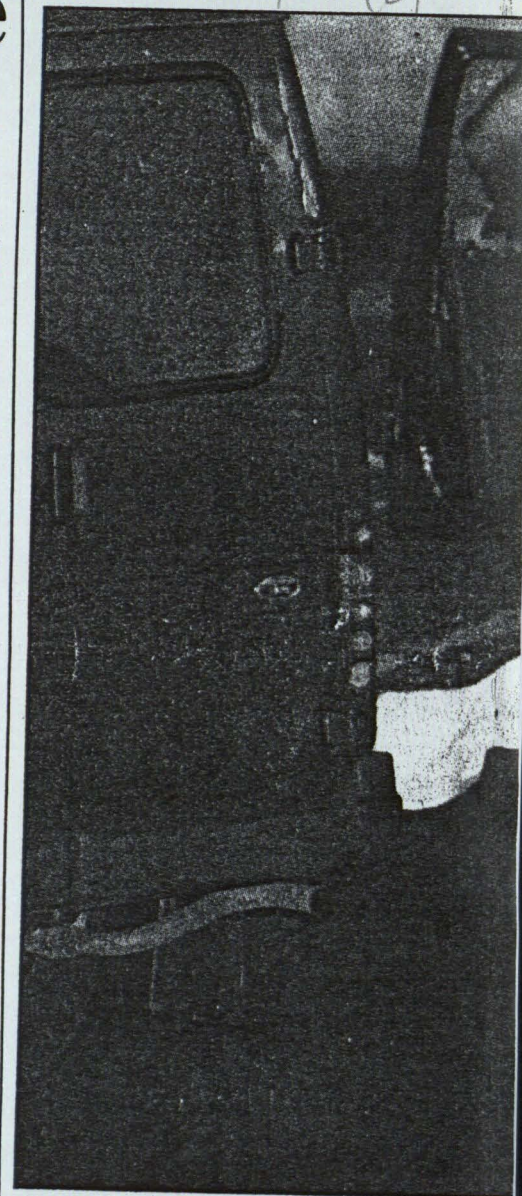
"They think they have an importance which is far greater than what they have, and that their violence is actually paying off."

"It is much, much better — in my view — to ignore them. Otherwise, it will also encourage other terrorist organisations on the Protestant side of the fence to turn to violence on an increasing scale."

He said Irish republicans could not be bought off, declaring: "Their bottom line is a united Ireland. Our bottom line is a United Kingdom."

Mr Ross said there was "an enormous amount of concern and worry" within the unionist community.

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Belfast shooting : The blanket cover

Peace at any price by
Robert McCartney, Q.C.

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NIO

- Civil servant told of Adams talks
- Exchange which led to Paisley's exit
- Loyalists arm for war

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Mayhew
under
fire

- 'Conflict over' statement bogus — McGuinness
- Local Tories tell Sir Patrick to go
- A year of contacts

THE TELEGRAPH
POLITICAL TEAM
BRINGS YOU THE
FULL STORY
EVERY DAY

DON'T GET
RED...



GET RAIL

No regrets —



Ian Paisley:
Studying papers

By Mark Simpson,
Political Correspondent

THE Rev Ian Paisley today began the first full day of his Westminster exile by studying the secret documents which led to his ill-fated parliamentary outburst.

The DUP leader — suspended from the House of Commons for five days for accusing the Secretary of State of lying — used his unexpected free time to analyse the private

position papers exchanged by the British Government and Sinn Féin.

These documents have outraged Mr Paisley, who sealed his Parliamentary fate yesterday by refusing to withdraw his allegation in the Commons that Sir Patrick Mayhew had lied over the Government's secret contacts with Sinn Féin.

After a colourful and, at times heated, exchange, Speaker Betty Boothroyd ordered Mr Paisley out of the

Reynolds in bid for early

By Michael Devine

TAOISEACH Albert Reynolds contacted John Major by telephone today in an effort to set the date of the crucial Anglo-Irish summit.

Mr Reynolds is anxious their

Government sources in Dublin today expected a summit date would be agreed in the next 48 hours.

A spokesman emphasised that next Friday, originally been pencilled in by the Irish Government as the date for the summit, had "not been crossed out".

bate in the Commons and the GATT negotiations.

The revelation that the British Government had been in regular contact with the IRA and the leaking of the Irish Government's sensitive position paper on Northern Ireland, has caused considerable

ty sleeps out in
her to draw atten-
ne ever-growing
people here P5



risks with their
injured captain Tor
Adams in the Coca
Cola Cup P18

Peace initiative emerges from the minefield of leaked documents Talks with Sinn Fein could start in January

By Chris Moncrieff

THE British government told the IRA just 25 days ago that exploratory talks with Sinn Fein could start as early as January in return for an end of violence, it emerged last night.

The position is revealed in a dramatic series of secret messages which have passed between the IRA and the British government since February and which have now been published by the Northern Ireland Office.

The final message from the government, sent on November 5, makes clear that a sufficient period - around two and a half months - would have to elapse between the ending of violence and any dialogue.

But, if the IRA's response was satisfactory, a first meeting for exploratory dialogue would take place within a week of Parliament's return on January 11, the message says.

Although there is a suggestion that a ceasefire already exists, the government has not been notified of this, even privately.

In an unprecedented move, the government yesterday published more than 30 pages of messages some hours after the IRA published its own version of some of the alleged exchanges.

Within minutes of that Sinn Fein national executive member Martin McGuinness bitterly accused the government of counterfeiting its own documents to meet current political needs.

The statement in the very first message - an oral one from Mr McGuinness on February 22 - that "the conflict is over" came "out of the blue" as far as London was concerned, senior officials indicated last night.

Northern Ireland secretary Sir

It is for the IRA and their supporters to explain why they failed to deliver the promised ending of violence

Sir Patrick Mayhew

Patrick Mayhew told MPs: "The government had a duty to respond to that message." "Our main objective has been to reinforce and spell out, in private, our publicly stated positions," he said.

"It is for the IRA and their supporters to explain why they failed to deliver the promised ending of violence. They should do so at once," he challenged.

Sir Patrick won a substantial measure of success in the Commons yesterday but Democratic Unionist leader the Rev Ian Paisley was ejected from the House for five days for accusing Sir Patrick of lying about talking to the IRA - and refusing to withdraw the allegation.

The government was forced to admit that secret exchanges had taken place after the *Observer* newspaper acquired details of them from Democratic Unionist Party MP, the Rev William McCrea.

The documents published yesterday reveal an extraordinary level of communication - some of it oral, some written statements of positions - carried out by intermediaries over the past year.

They include a message of regret from the IRA two days after the Warrington bomb in which two boys

died and more than 50 people were injured.

The oral message, dated March 22, says: "It is with total sadness that we have to accept responsibility for the recent action. The last thing we needed at this sensitive time was what has happened."

"It is the fate of history that we find ourselves in this position. All we can think of at this time is an old Irish proverb: 'God's hand works in mysterious ways'."

"Our hope is that this hand will lead to peace and friendship."

That "apology" was apparently received by the government with a good deal of scepticism.

Despite the messy revelations of the exchanges, the signs last night were that they will not lead to a break-up of the secret "chain of communication" outlined by Sir Patrick.

The last message from the British side, sent on November 5, was in response to a Sinn Fein question: "In plain language, tell us as a matter of urgency when you will open dialogue in the event of a total end to hostilities?"

The reply was: "If, as you have offered, you were to give us an unequivocal assurance that violence has indeed been brought to a permanent end, and that accordingly Sinn Fein is now committed to political progress by peaceful and democratic means alone, we will make clear publicly our commitment to enter exploratory dialogue with you."

"Our public statement will make clear that, provided your private assurance is promptly confirmed publicly after our public statement



● Gerry Adams yesterday

and that events on the ground are fully consistent with this, a first meeting for exploratory dialogue will take place within a week of Parliament's return in January."

The Commons returns from the Christmas recess on January 11. However, although such a period could become a benchmark, the IRA

have not notified Britain that a ceasefire is now in operation - if indeed it is.

So on the face of it the IRA have not fulfilled the British condition to give an assurance. The question of "back-dating" a ceasefire has been mooted, but seems unlikely.

Banished Paisley lambasts 'Paddy Mayhew the liar'

By Sian Clare

DEMOCRATIC Unionist Party leader the Rev Ian Paisley said last night he would rather be outside the Commons and a "true man" than inside "with Paddy Mayhew the liar".

Mr Paisley was speaking after he was dramatically ordered out of the Commons for five days for accusing Sir Patrick of lying over secret government contacts with the IRA.

"I just put it in plain Ulster language that he was lying and if the price of that is five days outside the House, I would rather be outside as



Leading SF man claims Mayhew papers 'bogus'

LEADING Sinn Fein man Martin McGuinness last night claimed the government had counterfeited one of the documents it released yesterday.

He said: "Patrick Mayhew read a text which he claims to be a communication sent by me to the British government in late February."

"I totally refute his claim. The text he read is a counterfeit. No such communication was ever sent. It is a lie, yet another lie to add to the many lies which has emanated from Patrick Mayhew and John Major in recent times."

Mr McGuinness claimed the government was now counterfeiting its own documents to meet its current needs.

He added: "His claim that a communication of November 2 to the British government was from Sinn Fein is equally bogus. The British government is telling lie after lie after lie in recent times to disguise its rejection of peace in Ireland."

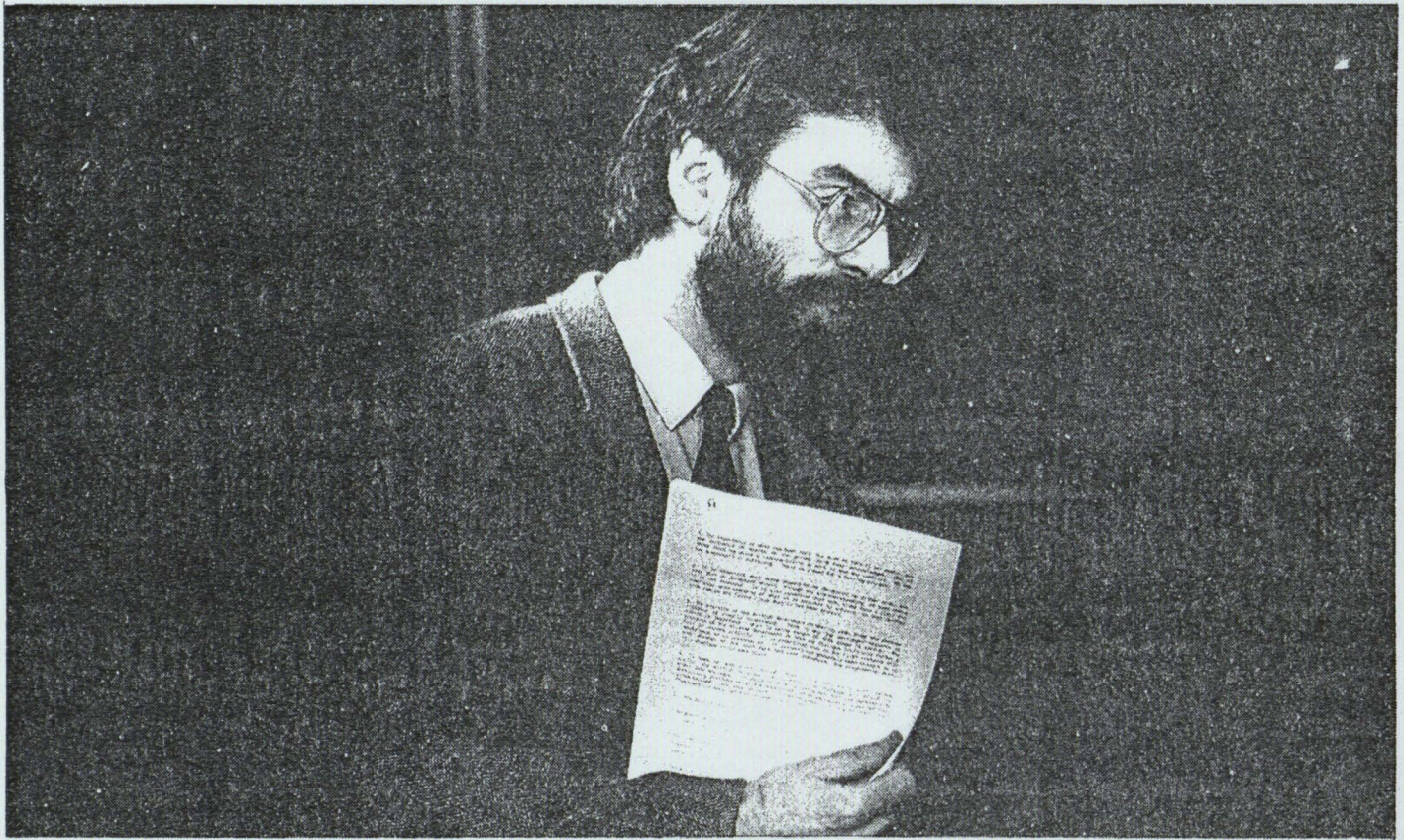
yesterday

Paisley said his only regret was he could not attend last night's service in the crypt at the Palace of Westminster, but he had been planning to go to Strasbourg for a few days anyway.

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the Irish News, Tuesday November 30 1993



● Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams leaves a press conference in Belfast yesterday with the controversial papers

Picture: Brendan Murphy

Britain 'turned down peace' says Adams

By Shane Glynn

BRITAIN turned its back on an agreed temporary IRA ceasefire in May of this year, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams claimed yesterday.

But, the British government made the first move in the deal, not the IRA, Mr Adams said.

He made the claims at a Belfast press conference during which he "reluctantly" released details of the contact between British government representatives and his party.

He released three documents - the first sent to Sinn Féin by the British in March, the second was their response, and the third was a further policy document sent to Sinn Féin earlier this month.

Gerry Adams refused to join the clamour for either Mr Major or Sir Patrick Mayhew's resignation, though he admitted that as long as

The British government made the first move in the deal, not the IRA
Gerry Adams

they remained in their respective positions of power it would "present difficulties" in re-opening the lines of contact.

Mr Adams also refused to rule out future negotiations, saying that it would be necessary to "pick up the threads" of communication in the interests of peace.

He said the British government had offered "protracted and in-

tense" negotiations in return for a suspension of IRA operations.

Mr Adams said this was put to the IRA, who agreed to a two-week cessation of violence. The British government were informed on May 10, but turned its back on the agreement as the Maastricht vote loomed.

He said the final decision would have rested with prime minister John Major as he was involved in a series of high level meetings to discuss the agreement.

Mr Adams refused to get into the "nitty gritty" of the contacts. He said they had existed for the past two decades, that the current phase had been initiated by the British government and had involved face to face meetings.

He would not reveal the names of any civil servants involved on the British side, but repeated that Martin McGuinness was the leading

Sinn Féin negotiator. He said no churchmen were involved at any time.

The British government was accused of "turning up the volume of leaks and rumours" to create disagreement in republican ranks and make short term political gains.

Mr Adams said the contacts were not an alternative to the Hume/Adams dialogue, which he referred to as the Irish Peace Initiative.

"This is still very much at the core of this controversy," he said.

Unionists, who had been lied to as badly as anyone else, should now become part of that process, Mr Adams said.

He claimed Sinn Féin had "minuted records" of all contacts that took place, and said further documents may be released later this week.

Men arrested with

Poll shows

Disclosure of documents 'does not happen by accident' says taoiseach



● Checking for leaks... Albert Reynolds is keen to offer SDLP leader John Hume some milk of human kindness Picture: Hugh Russell

Leaks lubricate the slippery path to peace, says Reynolds

The path to peace is not going to be strewn with roses warns Albert Reynolds but rather than being blown off course by leaks, the struggle to reach agreement over the north's future may be aided by the disclosures

TAOISEACH Albert Reynolds last night said events surrounding the disclosure of contacts between the British government and the IRA had been "most unhelpful" for continuing efforts to achieve peace in Ulster.

Mr Reynolds - who was in touch with John Major during the day over arrangements for their imminent Northern Ireland summit - also referred to what he called "malign forces trying to undermine the peace process".

He said it was too early to say if the current peace bid had been blown off course.

Mr Reynolds said "The peace process will not go away", but he added: "It is clear there are a lot of malign forces around now that do not want the peace process to continue, and indeed are trying to undermine the peace initiative."

"But this is a most important time for all political leaders to exercise calm, clear thinking and courage to ensure we continue to pursue what most people across the length and breadth of this country want - that is peace."

Mr Reynolds was understood to have been referring to the leaking of two sets of documents in the past

two weeks - one a position paper prepared by Dublin government officials for future negotiations on Northern Ireland, and the other revealing Britain's contacts with the IRA.

He said the leaking of documents "doesn't happen by accident".

Asked for further details about the forces he believed were working against peace, Mr Reynolds talked of "people using their own positions of influence or otherwise to try and put blockages along the way."

But he stressed: "I have always said that the path to peace would be difficult, that it would not be strewn with roses."

Mr Reynolds indicated that the timing of his summit with Mr Major had still to be fixed.

Difficulties over drafting the terms of a joint communique set to emerge from the meeting were last night thought to be delaying confirmation of the summit date.

Irish officials said they were still working on the assumption that the talks would go ahead in Dublin on Friday, the day initially pencilled in.

But it was also conceded in the Irish capital that there could still be a delay of a few days pending agreement over the joint statement.

The communique problems were thought to centre on the framing of a reference to eventual Irish unity, reckoned to be a Dublin condition for their agreeing to recommend the scrapping in a referendum of Ireland's constitutional claim on the territory of Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile, Dublin ministers were understood to have been encouraged by the level of support for the continuing peace process demonstrated yesterday in the House of Commons.

Details of the documents presented yesterday were being studied by Irish government officials.

THE CAMPAIGN to promote the well-known slogan: "A dog is for life, not just for Christmas," promoted by the Canine Defence League, was launched yesterday by the Mayor of Ballymena, Robert Coulter. "If anyone is thinking of buying a dog, why not wait until the Yuletide season is over and visit the NCDL's rescue centre," said Mr Coulter.

Santa saved from faulty tree threat

A TWIST in the trunk of Belfast's Christmas tree sparked fears yesterday that it would topple over crushing Santa in his grotto.

City council officials anxiously refuted rumours that a split in its trunk would mean "timber" for the 60 foot fir.

But a spokeswoman confirmed that safety measures were being taken last night to secure the Castlewellsan grown tree and it may have to be replaced.

Weather

Cloudy but bright with outbreaks of rain. Strong winds later. Max 9C. Details: P4

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Lotto

THE winning numbers in the mid-week National Lottery draw were: 2 8 22 34 35 and 39. Bonus number was 29. The jackpot stood at £424, 610.

was made because he believed insufficient work had been done in advance. One major problem was the

British side will consist of the Major, Secretary of State Sir Patrick Mayhew and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

ment on a formula be reached before Christmas which could provide a basis for an indefinite extension of the traditional IRA ceasefire.

Tan range positi

Mayhew forced to admit 'mistakes' in secret papers

MOVES towards a British peace initiative were rocked last night by the admission of "errors" in the secret documents Secretary of State Sir Patrick Mayhew released to the House of Commons on Monday detailing messages between the IRA and the British government.

He issued corrections but stressed that the "transcription and typing errors" did not change the sense of the messages from the IRA.

In a letter to John Smith, the Labour leader, Sir Patrick said: "Since my statement in the House on Monday, allegations have been made by the IRA leadership that it was the British government who initiated the exchanges of messages and was seeking advice.

"These allegations are entirely false. The first message was the one received on February 22 originating from the IRA.

"I need to write to you, however, to say that in re-checking the documentation some transcription and typing errors have come to light in the dossier of messages between the IRA and the government.

"These do not change the sense of the messages, but nonetheless they should be corrected. The Commons must have fully authentic documents, and mistakes in a statement must not go uncorrected."

Sir Patrick said the errors arose from the speed with which the dossier had to be completed and checked in Northern Ireland on Sunday, following the decision that day that it should be published on Monday.

"The corrections cast no doubt whatsoever upon the authenticity of the original message of February 22

from the IRA leadership which ... said: 'The conflict is over but we need your advice on how to bring it to a close'.

"As I said in my statement, this came from Martin McGuinness. Equally, the government, notwithstanding allegations by Sinn Fein to the contrary, has no reason to doubt the authenticity of the message sent by the IRA leadership on November 2, which I also read to the House, together with the government's reply of November 5."

The mistakes amount to a considerable embarrassment to the government.

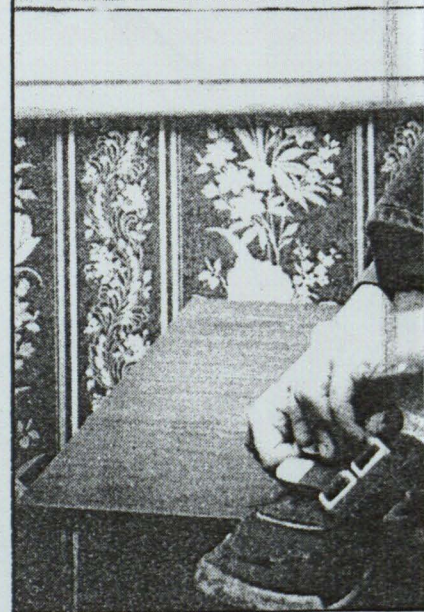
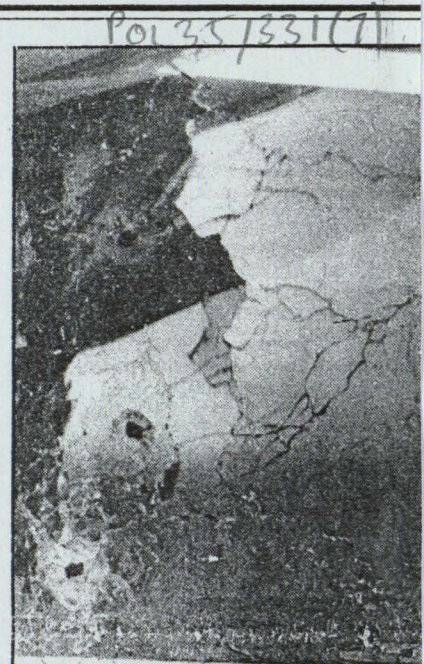
These are some of the examples: In the very first IRA message the word "misinterpret" is deleted and replaced by "misrepresent" in the sentence: "We cannot announce such a move as it will lead to confusion for the volunteers because the press will misinterpret it as a surrender." This is said to be a typographical error.

In a British message the word "reply" is deleted and "response" inserted instead.

A number of the corrections are merely changes in punctuation.

In one message from the IRA a whole sentence is inserted which reads: "The purpose of a dialogue about peace is to bring all organised violence by all parties to the conflict to an end." This, too, is described as a typographical error.

The discovery that corrections - however minor - had had to be made came as a shock at Westminster last night.



● Roibeard Lavery (7) gets ready for by UFF bullets

Gun gang's target jumps out window

A YOUNG Catholic man escaped from armed attackers last night by jumping through the window of his home in south Belfast.

Two men had forced their way into the house at Sunninghill Park in the Dunmurry area.

The man, in his twenties and had recently moved into the area, was in the living room and escaped by jumping through the window.

His girlfriend and a baby who were also in the room escaped unhurt.

A police spokesman said officers were investigating a sectarian motive for the attack.

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dose is above the site's own investigation level but below the annual statutory limit of radiation. The incident is on the lowest level of the International Nuclear Event scale.

Criminal damage to a policeman

Two men have been charged after a policeman was savaged by a dog on the Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham, north London. Constable Darren Hine was bitten on his head and legs. Steven Spencer (35) has been charged with possession of a dangerous dog. Winston Fergus (36) is accused of assault and causing criminal damage to a police jacket.

Taxi service with a difference

Amorous couples on their way home from a night out can hail a cab - and get a free condom at the same time. Taxi drivers in Wirral, Cheshire have agreed to install condom dispensers in their cars from December 10. The scheme, believed to be the first of its kind in the region, has been organised by Merseyside health authority and the helpline Healthwise.

Liver organ boy fights for life

Doctors trying to save the life of a five-year-old North Wales boy have launched a search for an organ donor. Jamie Humphreys, from Wrexham, needs a liver or liver and bowel transplant at London's Kings College Hospital, where he has spent the past five weeks. Family friend Philip Main said Jamie's condition has deteriorated slightly and he is back in intensive care.

Police swoop on false tax discs

Five people were being questioned by police yesterday after a swoop netted forged car tax discs and MOT certificates worth £100,000. More than 100 police took part in the raids on houses and garages in the Bournemouth and Poole areas of Dorset last night.

Christmas kiss set to cost more

A Christmas kiss looks set to cost more this year as mistletoe prices hit \$80 a hundredweight at the first of the season's auctions at Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester.

IRISH NEWS THURS 2/12/93 PP3

Government wanted March ceasefire for talks, says IRA

POL35/331(8)

By Brendan Anderson

THE IRA leadership has claimed the British government requested a two-week ceasefire last spring while "full-blown" negotiations took place.

According to a statement issued through Dublin and signed by P O'Neill, republican leaders agreed to the British request for a "short, unannounced suspension of IRA activity" to allow the talks to take place.

The movement's ruling army council has asked prime minister John Major and his cabinet to explain why the proposals, claimed to be made in March, were not followed up.

It is believed yesterday's statement was issued to counter a spate of rumours which swept media and political circles in Dublin and Belfast claiming a ceasefire was imminent.

Announcing full IRA backing for Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness in their handling of the dialogue with the British government, the statement called on John Major and his Cabinet to explain "why they had failed to deliver."

"We wish to confirm that in March the British government made a definite proposal for full-blown delegate meetings between its



● Full backing ... Gerry Adams (left) and Martin McGuinness

representatives and Sinn Fein.

"These were to be intensive and were to take place over a two-week period. The British government suggested Scotland or one of two Scandinavian countries as possible venues for these meetings.

"A short unannounced suspension of IRA activity was requested by the British government to help accommodate these meetings. In response to this request conveyed to us by the Sinn Fein representatives, Oglagh na hEireann decided that operations could be suspended for a two-week period.

"This was conveyed to the British government on May 10. It is for John Major and his cabinet to explain

why they failed to deliver their proposal."

The statement also said the IRA leadership had been kept fully informed of all the recent "protracted contact and dialogue between representatives of Sinn Fein and the British government."

"We have every confidence in Sinn Fein conducting this and any other contacted dialogue in which they are engaged. We totally refute the preposterous claim by the London government that the IRA leadership communicated to them in February 'that this conflict is over and we seek your advice on how to bring it to a close.'"

Unionists may talk to Spring

By Greg Harkin

UNIONISTS in the north said last night they would meet Tanaiste Dick Spring after the Irish Labour leader asked for talks.

Mr Spring said last night that a great deal of work still has to be done to convince unionists they have nothing to fear from the Dublin Government.

He offered to meet unionist politicians to allay their fears and talk about a way forward for the north - an offer that Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis said his party "may have to take up".

As the row continues over the agenda for tomorrow's Anglo-Irish

meeting, Mr Spring told BBC Radio Ulster: "I would like to say to unionists that there is nothing to be afraid of.

"I believe that there is an understanding, certainly in the south, that we all want to live on this island in a peaceful manner and there is absolutely nothing to prevent us from working out arrangements which will enable us to do that".

"I accept that there is an awful lot of work to be done and in that respect I would like to think we can have meetings, sitting face to face across the table," said the Tanaiste.

Barriers still had to be broken down but he was confident that

progress could be made with the unionists.

The Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, Ken Maginnis, said his party had no difficulty in meeting the Tanaiste.

Mr Maginnis said: "Our party has no objection, in principle, to meeting Dick Spring in order to put its case or to talk about the potential for relationships between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic as two distinct political entities.

He said the unionist community needed to be confident that any meetings will not undermine the situation in the north.

RUC tackles Garda across the border

By Brendan Anderson

AN annual rugby challenge game between the Gardai and the RUC, axed 25 years ago because of the troubles, has been resumed.

The Dermot O'Connor Perpetual Challenge Cup was established in

1965, but because of growing unrest in the north, the competition was abandoned just three years later.

Recently an RUC team, captained by former Irish international forward Jimmy McCoy, made a foray south to re-establish the series and

lift the trophy in the process with a convincing 12-5 win.

An RUC spokesman said: "We look forward to the visit of the Gardai to Newforge in 1994 and hope that the hospitality extended to us in Dublin can be reciprocated."

IRA did not make first move: claim

ADAMS REVEALS PAPERS

POL35/331(9)

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- Increased security for Paisley
- 'Seize peace opportunity' - Cardinal
- Give Unionists our plan - Reynolds

By Vincent Kearney
and Mark Simpson,
Political Staff

SINN Fein president Gerry Adams was today set to reveal new details of secret talks with the Government which it claims will prove the IRA did not make the first move.

The news came as Secretary of State Sir Patrick Mayhew prepared to face a barrage of questions in the House of Commons about errors made in the Government's account of the talks.

Admission

DUP leader the Rev Ian Paisley made a fresh call for Sir Patrick to resign after the Secretary of State admitted there were more than 20 "transcription and typing" mistakes in the Government documents.



Admitted errors:
Sir Patrick Mayhew

Sir Patrick said he "very much" regretted the mistakes had been made, but claimed they "cast no doubt whatsoever" on the authenticity of the IRA's message asking for advice on how to end its violence.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said Sir Patrick's admission "fails to deal with the main issues."

His party was today due to reveal new details of the talks, which it claimed would prove the IRA did not make the first move.

The party was due to release more than 40 pages of documents detailing meetings with Government officials dating back to 1990.

It claims the new evidence will also prove the Northern Ireland Office "doctored" some of the documents and forged others presented to the House of Commons by Sir Patrick Mayhew on Monday.

Martin McGuinness, named as the Sinn Fein representative in the talks, was expected to pour scorn on the version of events put forward by Sir Patrick.

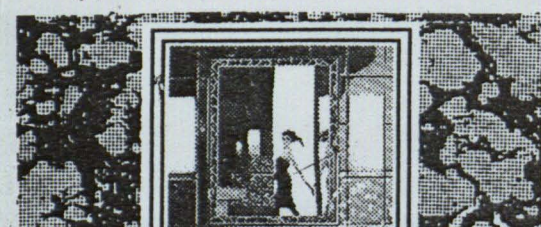
Working

Party officials have drawn up a full chronology of meetings with the Government during the past three years and a list of "discrepancies" it claims are contained in the NIO documents.

The row over Sir Patrick's admission came as Prime Minister John Major and Taoiseach Albert Reynolds prepared for their "working meeting" in Dublin tomorrow.

Naked models say
poses left them
feeling vulnerable

Cris
ave



'Doctored' documents: Former Minister

Mates says errors can be excused

By Desmond McCartan
Westminster Correspondent

FORMER Northern Ireland Security Minister Michael Mates today staunchly defended Sir Patrick Mayhew following the outcry over "doctored documents".

He said Sir Patrick Mayhew's decision to correct errors in the papers detailing contacts with the IRA demonstrates his honesty.

But MPs said they were determined to press Sir Patrick for a fuller explanation during Northern Ireland question-time in the Commons today.

Sir Patrick revealed the errors in a letter to Labour leader John Smith amid continuing accusations by Sinn Fein of counterfeiting and tricks by the Government.

Mr Mates said: "Given the speed with which everything was prepared, after the document was leaked on Friday, it's not surprising the odd error crept in."

He said somebody must have picked up the wrong draft, but the errors were very minor.

"They're not significant, but it is part and parcel of the fact that Sir Patrick Mayhew has been completely honest about all of this from the start and he wanted the record to be absolutely straight."

Advice

Sir Patrick stressed that the "transcription and typing errors" did not alter the sense of the IRA messages.

He told Mr Smith: "Since my statement in the House on Monday, allegations have been made by the IRA leadership that it was the British Government which initiated the exchanges of messages and was seeking advice."

"These allegations are entirely false. The first message was the one received on Feb-

however, to say that in re-checking the documentation some transcription and typing errors have come to light in the dossier of messages between the IRA and the Government.

Doubt

"These do not change the sense of the messages, but nonetheless they should be corrected. The Commons must have fully authentic documents, and mistakes in a statement must not go uncorrected."

He said the amendments "cast no doubt whatsoever" on the authenticity of the IRA's original message of February 22 which said that 'the conflict is over but we need your advice on how to bring it to a close'.

"As I said in my statement, this came from Martin McGuinness."

"Equally, the Government, notwithstanding allegations by Sinn Fein to the contrary, has no reason to doubt the authenticity of the message sent by the IRA leadership on November 2, which I also read

to the House, together with the Government's reply of November 5."

Apparently referring to Sinn Fein's allegations of counterfeiting, he added: "Although they do not carry the implications claimed, I very much regret that these corrections need to be made."

First

In the first IRA message the word "misinterpret" is deleted and replaced by "misrepresent" in the sentence: "We cannot announce such a move as it will lead to confusion for the volunteers because the press will misinterpret it as a surrender." This is said to be a typographical error.

In a British message the word "reply" is deleted and "response" inserted instead.

One IRA message has a new sentence inserted: "The purpose of a dialogue about peace is to bring all organised violence by all parties to the conflict to an end." This was also described as a typographical error.

Tell unionists our plan

By Michael Devine

THE Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, has asked the Prime Minister, John Major, to acquaint unionist MPs of the contents of the Irish Government's proposals for a framework for peace in Northern Ireland.

He told the Dail he was willing to go anywhere, anytime to talk to UUP leader Jim Molyneux, or any other unionists. But at the moment they were unwilling to talk to him.

him to relay to the unionists exactly what the Irish Government was proposing.

He added: "I'm not trying to do a secret deal or a hidden deal behind their backs. I would be only too delighted to sit down across the table and discuss it with them."

He said he knew that if he had that opportunity, they would go away happy.

He added: "John Alderdice is a leading example. He came down and he sat down and asked questions and he went away happy that their position (unionists) was not threatened."

