

10 September 1996

Senator George Mitchell
Talks Chairman
Block B
Castle Buildings
Belfast

Before the summer break we made formal representations to you, as Chairman of the Talks, that in our judgement leading figures in the Ulster Unionist Party and the Democratic Unionist Party had breached the Mitchell Principles upon which the Talks were based. We requested that you convey these concerns to the two Governments. In our discussions with the two Governments we further confirmed our views. This matter was of course raised in advance of the adoption of the Rules of Procedure.

Subsequently we were requested to provide a written note.

I may point out that we have been prepared to continue with the Talks while this matter was being processed and we hope that others will take this constructive approach to current and any subsequent allegations. Any other approach would leave the Talks open to continual obstruction through the presentation of allegations - whether well-founded or specious.

Subsequent to our earlier expression of concerns, there have been further breaches, in our view, of the Mitchell Principles. We refer to developments in respect of the Democratic Unionist Party, and the two Loyalist Parties (the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Democratic Party).

We therefore accompany this letter with a written expression of what we regard as these various breaches of the Mitchell Principles. Our wish of course is not to see anyone evicted from the Talks, but to see all parties proceed with serious Talks, and to conduct themselves in accordance with the Mitchell Principles. The conduct and outcome of this matter however lies not with us, but with yourself, and with the two Governments. All that we can do is bring to your attention what we see as serious breaches of the Principles.

Yours sincerely

PARTY LEADER