



An Taoiseach
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin

9 March 00

Dear *Bertie*,

We write to offer support for the position articulated by Minister O'Donnell in respect of further implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. We believe it to be more useful to focus on the objective of full implementation than to focus on the date by which this should happen. And we have lived through many broken deadlines in the past number of years, most notably, perhaps, the only other deadline in the Agreement – October 31st, 1998. The official timetable was corrupted when this was not met, but the implementation process continued.

In our view the May 22nd deadline had been rendered unrealistic, and it is better to signal this at this stage than to do it closer to the time. This is not to say we should abandon any endeavour to get the Agreement implemented in full by that stage, just that we should be cognisant that it may not be possible. If it proves not to be possible by that date we would be minded to continue with efforts to implement the Agreement in full. And we remain confident that this can be done.

Additionally, we attach, for your information, a letter we sent to the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair on recent developments.

We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks to resolve our current problems.

Yours sincerely

Monica McWilliams

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Jane Morrice

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