

Five

13 October 1994,

Mr Gerard Adams,
President, Sinn Fein,
49 Norfolk Drive,
BELFAST BT11 8AF

After the last Local Government Election, your colleague, Cllr Tom Hartley, suggested to me that our parties might talk with each other. I advised him that this would indeed be possible when the violence had stopped.

You repeated this invitation when we encountered each other on Mr Larry King's television programme on 31 January this year, and I tried to indicate then too, that the continued violence by PIRA was the obstacle.

With the sustained cessation of PIRA military operations, wholly new opportunities now exist for peace. I believe that we must all ensure that this unprecedented chance is grasped, and my party must take its responsibilities in this matter seriously.

I am glad that I am now therefore in a position to respond positively to those invitations to meet with you, to see what can be done to remove some of the remaining hurdles in the path of progress.

I may be contacted through, Mr David Ford, our General Secretary, at Party Headquarters. I hope that I may look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John T Alderdice
PARTY LEADER