

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS - TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER 1993

DR PAISLEY: The Prime Minister will remember that time and time again he has emphasised in this House and outside this House that he would not negotiate with those who engage in violence or support violence. He is well aware to day that the IRA violence is continuing and last weekend Gerry Adams became an apologist for that violence. Would he explain today to the people of Northern Ireland why the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic can announce to them that the Prime Minister here at the end of this month will engage in discussions with the Taoiseach concerning the agreement reached between IRA/Sinn Fein and the Honourable Member for Foyle.

PRIME MINISTER: I know nothing of the details of the agreement reached between the Hon Member for Foyle and Mr Gerry Adams. Whatever statement may have been made by the Taoiseach in the Irish Parliament is a statement uncleared with me. I have regular discussions with the Taoiseach across a whole range of issues; if the Taoiseach wishes to raise with me matters that he believes will bring violence to an end in Northern Ireland then I am compelled to listen. But I repeat to the Honourable Gentleman and to this House we do not negotiate with terrorists, we do not negotiate with people who deal with bullet and bomb and we do not surrender to their violence either now or in the future.

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