



8 November 1995

This proposed statement to be made by both governments was submitted by the SDLP to the Prime Minister.

We believe this statement represents a common sense approach to breaking this current stalemate.

This is particularly true if considered with recent statements by Sinn Fein committing themselves totally and absolutely to the democratic and peaceful process and making clear that threats have no role of any description in such a process.

All of this is totally in keeping with the Downing Street Declaration. What is not in keeping is the attitude of the British Government. In the Downing Street Declaration they committed themselves to "encouraging, facilitating and enabling agreement" among our divided people. What have they done to implement that statement? Surely the first step towards reaching agreement is to invite all parties around the table or at least name a date for so doing.



John Hume MP MEP Party Leader *Seamus Mallon* MP Deputy Leader *Eddie McGrady* MP Chief Whip

Member Party of the Party of European Socialists and Socialist International



- 1 The two governments have agreed to launch the preparatory phase for all party talks in the peace process which will, not later than 30 November, lead into substantive political negotiations, in round table format, to reach an agreed political settlement.
- 2 The two governments have also agreed to ask George Mitchell to head up an international body, to ascertain and advise the two governments on the commitment to peaceful and democratic methods of all political parties which will be participating in the round table negotiations and consequently of their commitment of the removal of all weapons from Irish politics. The international body will also be asked to ascertain and advise on how the question of arms, now (thankfully) silenced, can be finally and satisfactorily settled. George Mitchell will be assisted by two other figures of international standing likely to inspire widespread confidence.
- 3 Accordingly, the international body will have the remit of reporting, by (.....) on whether it has established that a clear commitment exists on the part of the respective political parties to an agreed political settlement, achieved through democratic negotiations, and to the satisfactory resolution of the question of arms.
- 4 The international body will report to the two governments who will undertake to consider carefully any recommendations it makes and to give them due weight.