



file

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

### MEETINGS IN MAY : SINN FEIN ALLEGATIONS

It is clear that Martin McGuinness's objective in making these allegations is to draw attention away from the simple point that he, acting for the Provisional movement, made the initial approach to the Government on 22 February, in which he said: "The conflict is over but we need your advice on how to bring it to a close".

The Government has already disclosed all consequent messages which the Government has received and dispatched through this chain of communication.

As we have already made clear, the Government received the message of 10 May. There were a number of meetings the following week, although McGuinness's account of the dates is inaccurate. His account of the meetings is also inaccurate. All the quotes are fabricated. The Government's position was then, and is now, that any entry into dialogue could only follow a total and demonstrable cessation of violence by the Provisionals.

The Government is not prepared to reveal further details about the operation of this means of communication. The principles concerned were set out in the House of Commons on Monday.

The Provisional movement seems bent on diverting attention from its failure to match its actions to its claimed concern to end the violence.

The way forward is for them to end the violence now.

2 December 1993

## MEETINGS IN MAY

### Line to take

It is clear that McGuinness's objective in making these allegations is to sow a further confusion so as to draw attention away from the simple point that he, acting for the Provisional movement, made the initial approach to the Government.

As we have already made clear, the Government received the message of 10 May. There were a number of meetings the following week [although not on the dates alleged by McGuinness]. His account of the meetings is inaccurate. All the quotes are fabricated. The Government's position was then, and is now, that any entry into dialogue could only follow a cessation of violence by the Provisionals.

The way forward remains for the Provisionals to end violence and after a sufficient interval begin to enter into exploratory dialogue.

2 December 1993.