



An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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THIRTEEN MONTHS AGO THE IRA ANNOUNCED A COMPLETE CESSATION OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. WE DID SO TO ENHANCE THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH EXISTED, AT THAT TIME, GIVEN POLITICAL WILL ON ALL SIDES, FOR THE REALISATION OF A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT.

WE WISH SINN FEIN EVERY SUCCESS IN ITS CURRENT EFFORTS TO BREAK THE IMPASSE CREATED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S NEW AND UNREASONABLE DEMAND FOR A HANDING OVER OF IRA WEAPONS.

THE ENTIRE DECOMMISSIONS ISSUE IS A DELIBERATE DISTRACTION AND STALLING TACTIC BY A BRITISH GOVERNMENT ACTING IN BAD FAITH.

JOHN MAJOR'S GOVERNMENT KNOW ENOUGH OF ANGLO IRISH HISTORY TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF DISARMAMENT EXCEPT AS PART OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

GIVEN THAT HISTORY AND THE REALITY THAT THEY AND THEIR LOYALIST DEATH SQUAD ALLIES HOLD THE LARGEST STOCK OF LICENSED AND UNLICENSED WEAPONS THE DEMAND FOR AN IRA HAND OVER OF WEAPONS IS LUDRICOUS.

THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF THE IRA MEETING THESE DEMANDS.

THE STATEMENT WAS SIGNED P O'NEILL, IRISH REPUBLICAN BUREAU, DUBLIN.