



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

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### GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

The Taoiseach, Mr. John Bruton, T.D., has suggested the postponement of tomorrow's Anglo-Irish Summit, and the British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major, has agreed to this. The purpose is to allow some more time to attempt to resolve outstanding differences.

5 September, 1995.

5 Sept 95.

(27)

**DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS**

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach have taken stock on the current position on the peace / talks process.

The Governments are now agreed to proceed to all party talks, in round table format, before the end of 1995.

Both Governments share the aim of creating conditions in which all the relevant parties will attend those talks and will participate on the most constructive possible basis.

A key condition is an understanding by the Governments and the parties in relation to how the question of arms, now thankfully silent, can be settled satisfactorily so as to remove the gun from the political process.

The Governments have been unable to resolve this issue in a manner they judge they and the parties could agree as satisfactory.

The Governments believe that in these circumstances the prudent and responsible course is to take the time necessary to identify a satisfactory outcome.

The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach have accordingly decided to postpone the Anglo-Irish Summit planned for Wednesday, 6th September. They ask all sides to consider and make the compromises necessary to reach the appropriate outcome.

Both Governments agree that all-party talks will have the best prospect of leading to a successful outcome if all the parties participating understand that they are not acting under duress of any kind. The British Government continue to believe that the best way of creating an atmosphere for successful talks is to have a decommissioning gesture by the paramilitary organisations at an early stage in the talks process.

The Irish Government is of the view that this is not attainable. Both Governments agree that any final settlement should be negotiated on the basis that nothing will be agreed until everything is agreed, and that the complete destruction of all paramilitary arms will be an essential element in any agreement, without which the rest of the agreement could not come into effect.

The Government's hope that Senator Mitchell, after discussion with all the relevant parties, will be able to assist in clarifying the issue, that remain in contention and assisting the Government to come to a conclusion on them.