



# An Chartlann Náisiúnta National Archives

**Reference Code:** 2021/100/20

**Creator(s):** Department of the Taoiseach

**Accession Conditions:** Open

**Copyright:** National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

RECEIVED 11 NOV 1998

Secure Fax: 1348

Copy @ GI Section

9 November 1998

No of pages including this one: 2

To: HQ  
For: Colm O'Flóinn

From: Belfast  
From: Joint Secretary

Subj: Recognition by Secretary of State of LVF ceasefire

1. We have been enquiring about media suggestions that the Secretary of State may issue very shortly her anticipated statement recognising the validity of the LVF ceasefire.
2. We are told that this statement is expected sooner rather than later, and possibly by the end of next week.
3. In internal discussions, the Secretary of State has not disguised the strength of her feelings about the LVF, her distaste at their manipulation of the ceasefire issue in order to extricate their companions from prison and her desire to hasten slowly on this front.
4. However, as we have previously reported, the advice from her officials is that the LVF are adhering strictly to their ceasefire; that they are not implicated in recent sectarian violence; that Unionists are drawing unfavourable comparisons with the IRA, who are allegedly involved in a rising number of punishment attacks; and that, if the validity of the LVF ceasefire is not shortly recognised, there could be a successful judicial review finding against the Secretary of State on grounds of inequitable treatment vis-a-vis other organisations on ceasefire.
5. She indicated these various concerns at her recent meeting with the Minister. Since then, she told David Trimble in the Commons, when he pressed her on the question of recognition of the LVF ceasefire, that she had received a recent report from the security forces, that she was reviewing this report and that she would be making a judgement "in the coming weeks" as to whether the position needed to be reviewed.
6. Indicating a broad willingness on our side to be guided by her assessment, we have

2

asked to be given advance notice of whatever statement the Secretary of State plans to issue. This has been promised.