

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

**IRELAND**



<b>Reference Code:</b>	2015/89/65
<b>Creation Date(s):</b>	16 October 1985
<b>Extent and medium:</b>	4 pages
<b>Creator(s):</b>	Department of the Taoiseach
<b>Access Conditions:</b>	Open
<b>Copyright:</b>	National Archives, Ireland. May only be reproduced with the written permission of the Director of the National Archives.

Extract

P. J. Hume PI CSan S19003 P.M.E  
4/2

Cc. PST  
PSM  
PS.  
Mr. Lillis  
A-1 Section  
Doc.

PST/Marke  
P.J. Ulster Justice  
Att. General  
Mr. Ward  
Mr. Nally

Interview on Radio Ulster with

John Hume and Gerry Adams

31 January, 1985

(Uncorrected)  
Indexed  
W. Hendry  
B

Adams: Sometimes we get the big lie. Danny Morrison's appeal was not about an electoral pact, <sup>He never mentioned electoral pact</sup> that was something the SDLP invented. What he talked about was in councils that Sinn Fein was prepared to put party interests aside <sup>in</sup> and the general interest of citizens and in the general <sup>of life</sup> interests of the Nationalist community. The fact <sup>in</sup> in this part of Ireland is that Sinn Fein is going to have some representation on some local councils and the SDLP <sup>who will get involved with Sinn Fein are going to go to a men like Gregory Campbell. To let</sup> gloated on the death of two Derry men recently. Are people they going to let those people get into power? For example, I have down for our national executive, meeting very soon the issue of an invitation from Sinn Fein to the SDLP <sup>a talk about</sup> ~~in~~ be Pan-Nationalist interests. I would like to see some response from Mr. Hume to that.

Interviewer: Well, John Hume there you are, what do you say to that?

J. Hume : First of all, and it relates to a number of the points Gerry Adams has made. If Sinn Fein are issuing an invitation to talk to the SDLP that will be the first time that that had happened and you say you still haven't decided whether you want to talk to us or not.

Interviewer: Have you taken no decision yet?

Adams: First of all, I've put it down to our national executive. Secondly before the Assembly elections a group of people including Sinn Fein got together and contacted - it wasn't Sinn Fein that organised this - and contacted the SDLP and Danny Morrison was in fact in contact with your General Secretary .....

J. Hume: ..... I don't know about that. First of all if I'm being asked to talk to the Provisional Republican Movement then it's the Provisional Republican Movement I want to talk to and as I understand the Provisional Republican Movement Sinn Fein are subject in all matters to the army council, so the army council are the people and you said so yourself in answer to the question about the contradiction between the social work and the military campaign that the army must decide whether to hit industrial targets or not and I think that that contradiction is very clear. It's a nonsense for the political wing <sup>to say that</sup> they are looking for social betterment <sup>when</sup> they must accept the dictates of another body or part of the same body which is superior to them and which takes decisions which you can't countermand as a political movement, then if I am to talk to the Provisional Movement I want to talk to the people who are making the decisions and what I want to talk to them about is my belief that violence cannot achieve anything in this country and my wish that it would cease and coming back to your other remark about violence being the only thing that has achieved anything in Ireland, I would give you our own example as a community. There has been an IRA campaign in the 20's, the 30's, the 40's, achieved nothing, it was only <sup>when</sup> the Civil Rights Movement, which is a totally non-violent movement came on the streets that any changes took place and all the changes for the betterment of the Community in Northern Ireland for the past fifteen years have come and sprung from that movement. Violence committed against the Irish people has always brought changes but not violence committed by them.

Interviewer: I'd like to get a clear definition on this.....

G. Adams: I just think it is very important because in one of his long-winded replies, John Hume has again fudged the issue and the last point he made the Dublin Government and the people of the 26 counties wouldn't say that the 20's haven't achieved anything.

G. Adams: I didn't say that it was a contradiction, what I said was that there was a contradiction between electoral strategy <sup>and</sup> armed

struggle and that's quite obvious. Coming back to the long-winded fudge, the situation is that the Sinn Fein Ard Comhairle as they accept my proposal will be sending an invitation to the SDLP to talk, that we as a political party ..... now if John Hume wants <sup>to meet</sup> the army council of the IRA, I'm sure he'll find his own way of doing it.

Interviewer: It's important John Hume that you should say, are you really saying that if you got an invitation ..... I think that it's important that we define this in this programme-- if you got such an invitation, given your answer, ~~that~~ <sup>it</sup> may lead to confusion, I'm not sure what your position is - you are the one that can tell us, would you say in reply to that that such discussions would be possible if the army council was also present?

J. Hume: What I am saying is I want to know who I am talking to, <sup>On</sup> Gerry Adam's own admission .....

Interviewer: Gerry Adam's might call this a fudge .....

J. Hume: For purpose of an electoral strategy he might say to me yes <sup>But</sup> a,b,c,d. ~~that~~ his army council might decide that the military strategy is against that. I want to talk to the people who make the decisions in the Republican Movement and I'm asking you who are they?

G. Adams: Well, the people who make the decisions for Sinn Fein are the national executive or Ard Comhairle of Sinn Fein. Now lets not get involved in semantics in this issue. Our Ard Comhairle will meet - I presume they will accept the proposal - they will then stand and it will say quite clearly who it's from, it will be from the Ard Comhairle of Sinn Fein, they will say that there may be issues which mightn't be to the benefit of Sinn Fein, which mightn't be to the benefit of the SDLP but which we would see as being to the general benefit and to the betterment of the Nationalist people. Will the SDLP meet us on that basis?

Interviewer: Some Unionists would say - this is very extraordinary John Hume - here you are saying if you know who they are and they are genuinely the people who control the Provisional Republican Movement, yes you would consider, I would agree that you haven't said that you would go but the Unionist population would say why aren't you going talking to our representatives?

J. Hume: Well I have no objection to talking to their representatives as in this case I want to know what I am talking about. Our position in those talks have been made abundantly clear, what I have been asking Gerry Adams and which he is fudging is who takes the decisions for the Republican movement because I would like to the people who take the decisions and I say I would talk to the people who take the decisions in order to ask them to cease their campaign of violence.

G. Adams: Sinn Fein is involved in a political struggle - the IRA is involved in an armed struggle, if John Hume wants to talk about the armed struggle with the IRA let him go ahead, if John Hume wants to talk about a political struggle and the overall value for ..... he'd better talk to Sinn Fein.