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Downtown Radio News Report on Hume-Adams Talks, 28 March 1988

It has been revealed that Newry and Armagh MP, Seamus Mallon, joined party leader John Hume and other party members in more talks with Sinn Fein. After a weekend conference of SDLP executive and constituency representatives backed Mr. Hume's dialogue with the West Belfast MP, Gerry Adams, the party has revealed that widened discussions were held in the middle of last week. Gerry Adams was joined at the table by Danny Morrison, Mitchell McLaughlin and Tom Hartley, while two of the SDLP MPs were joined by party members Austin Currie and Sean Farren. Today, the third SDLP MP, Eddie McGrady, voiced concern over his party's involvement in talks with Sinn Fein while the violence continues. He says, however, on the eve of talks with the Secretary of State, he is hopeful the SDLP can soon get around the table with unionists.

McGrady: It would appear that there is some movement in unionist thinking and I think it is vitally important that every facility be given for that dialogue to take place with unionism.

Interviewer: You say every facility. Could you specify?

McGrady: Well, in that when the SDLP have talks with the Secretary of State tomorrow, we will be in possession of further information, I hope, on the up to date attitude of the British Government and then that we take up Mr. Molyneaux's offer of dialogue all round and that we engage in that dialogue with them.

Interviewer: The SDLP continuing, of course, to give backing to Mr. Hume in his talks with Sinn Fein?

McGrady: Well, the party has given that backing to Mr. Hume. I do not agree with continuing talks with Sinn Fein while they engage in violence.