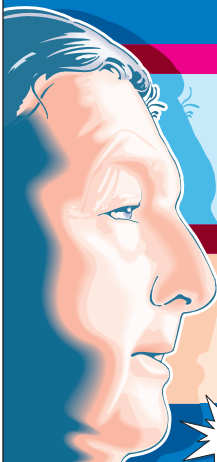


Secret talks between the government and the IRA



February 1993

IRA message to British government offers to end 23-year campaign of violence against British rule

March 22

Sinn Fein meets intermediary who brings offer of talks from Northern Ireland secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew

April 10

SDLP leader John Hume begins secret meetings with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams

September 27

Hume and Adams issue joint statement agreeing 'broad principles' to underpin a peace settlement

October 29

John Major and Irish leader Albert Reynolds agree to work together but reject Hume-Adams proposals

November 4

In meeting with Major, Hume claims that peace would happen in a week if proposals were accepted by Britain and Ireland

5 – IRA offers to stop targeting Protestant loyalists if attacks on Catholics end

15 – Major offers Sinn Fein place in talks if IRA ends violence. Major aides dismiss Adams' claim that talks are already underway

19 – Leaked document reveals

Irish offer to amend territorial claims in return for British support for unity

22 – Mayhew denies government contact with Sinn Fein or 'any other terrorist organization'

27 – Government admits long-term contact with IRA through confidential channel

March 20: Warrington – bomb kills two children

April 24: City of London – bomb kills one, extensive damage

October 23: Belfast – Shankill Rd massacre