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**SendTo:** CN=Kevin Tiernan/O=ARRB

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**From:** CN=Joseph Freeman/O=ARRB

**DisplayFromDomain:**

**DisplayDate:** 02/19/1998

**DisplayDate\_Time:** 3:04:51 PM

**ComposedDate:** 02/19/1998

**ComposedDate\_Time:** 2:21:39 PM

**Subject:** Re: not Movies, but records  
DON'T KNOW OF THE BOOK, BUT IT SOUNDS GOOD. IF YOU BUY IT AND LIKE IT, LET ME KNOW:RE: THE NORTH OF IRELAND. THE process does fail without Sinn Fein's participation, but it also fails without the participation of the main Unionist party, the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP). The latter is kicking up a row about the two killings and will certainly walk out unless Sinn Fein is expelled, as the Ulster Democratic Party was a few weeks ago. \*\* So the British and Irish governments are in something of a bind. The answer to the dilemma, apparently, will be to temporarily expel Sinn Fein and then, after some decent interval, allow them back in (just as the UK/Irish governments are prepared to let the UDP back in). This face-saving measure may or may not work, depending -- predictably enough -- on whether it can withstand the centrifugal pressures coming from either side. That is, if it's seen as too small a slap on the wrist for Sinn Fein, the UUP may feel compelled to walk out anyway, and if it is seen as too sharp a slap the IRA might decide to throw over their cease-fire. Gerry Adams is issuing calls for patience and restraint on the nationalist side, apparently trying to head off any faction within the IRA inclined to exploit a Sinn Fein expulsion in order to take up full-scale arms again, while simultaneously claiming that Sinn Fein ought not to be expelled to begin with. As always, Adams is walking a tightrope, and the Unionists see him as playing good cop/bad cop in tandem with the IRA as part of a calculated political strategy. It's probably true that the IRA doesn't view its murder of the Catholic drug dealer as a violation of the cease-fire (the IRA continued to engage in this sort of "community policing" during its last cease-fire as well) though, conversely, it wouldn't have required a brain surgeon to anticipate the likely Unionist reaction and the resulting pressure on the UK/Irish governments. As for their murder of the UDA leader (which they have not claimed), it seems clearly to be a tit-for-tat thing, a warning to the protestant paramilitaries (and the two governments) that the IRA's patience is not inexhaustible and that it will not sit idly by indefinitely while the UDA/UFF/LVF murders Catholics indiscriminately. Apparently, the IRA felt sufficiently strongly about the need to send this message that it was willing to put the peace process itself at some level of risk. As for evidence, apparently the RUC has enough to convince the Irish government, the final guarantor of the nationalist position. I don't think anyone has too many doubts or illusions as to the IRA being responsible for the two killings. Denials and non-denials, carefully nuanced, have an almost ritualistic air to them in the north: they are read like tea leaves for their political meanings and are almost never taken at face value. I have gone on-line for the latest, though between the NYTimes and the Irish Echo (a weekly out of NY with good coverage of the north) I get pretty much all I need.\*\*UDP, a small but influential Unionist party that represents the protestant paramilitary group, the Ulster Defence Association, UDA, which conducts its killings under the  
**Body:**  
**recstat:** Record  
**DeliveryPriority:** N  
**DeliveryReport:** B  
**ReturnReceipt:**  
**Categories:**