



THE WORKERS' PARTY

PAIRTIN NA hOIBRÍ

30 Gardiner Place Dublin 1 Ireland

Telephone 740718/741045 Telex 31490

URGENT

Dr. John Alderdice
Leader
Alliance Party
88 University Street
Belfast

8 May 1991

Dear Dr Alderdice,

In view of the apparently serious deadlock over the venue for the second phase of the Brooke talks involving the Irish government, I want to urge all those involved to consider a possible formula which could provide an acceptable solution for all sides.

The main problem, as I understand it, is that the Unionists parties are unwilling to travel to Dublin because of their objections to Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the Republic and that the SDLP and the Dublin government are unwilling to go to London unless talks are also held in Dublin.

I consider that the matter of the venue for the talks is relatively unimportant and is certainly not adequate grounds for jeopardising the progress made by all sides to date, and perhaps condemning the people of Northern Ireland to several more decades of violence and political instability. I believe that most reasonable people in Northern Ireland, Britain and the Republic share this view.

However, it is now clear that some initiative is necessary to break the deadlock and save the talks. With this in mind, I want to urge all those involved to consider the following formula. I am suggesting that the Dublin end of the talks should be held at the British Embassy here. This would mean that one part of the talks would still be held in the capital of the Republic, but their location in the British embassy should remove the objections the Unionists have to travelling to Dublin while Articles 2 and 3 remain in place. If necessary, the London end of the talks might be located in the Irish embassy there."

yours sincerely,

Proinsias De Rossa
Proinsias De Rossa TD

President
The Workers' Party