

Time is short for talks success — Alderdice

By DAVID WATSON

TIME is now very short for the Stormont talks and minds must concentrate fully on the difficult tasks facing the politicians, Alliance leader Dr John Alderdice warned today.

His comments came as a slanging match continued between DUP and Ulster Unionist members, with the parties at the talks, including the SDLP, now meeting each other individually to discuss "elements of a settlement".

This means that bilateral meetings are taking place not just with independent chairman Sir Ninian Stephen, but also on a one-to-one basis between the four Northern Ireland parties and the two Governments.

'Critical'

The politicians are examining both the Strand Two issue of North-South relations, but have also returned to the unresolved Strand One issue of internal structures to govern Northern Ireland.

Dr Alderdice confirmed the weekend disclosure by Ulster Unionist leader Jim Molyneaux, at his party conference, that the two Unionist parties and Alliance had reached "broad agreement" on a devolution model during the earlier Strand One negotiations.

Asked about Mr Molyneaux's speech, he commented: "The talks are at a very critical and delicate stage and I would not wish to compromise their success by unnecessary comment."

"However, it is well known that this is a three-stranded process and nothing in it is agreed until everything is agreed."

DUP and UUP members in war of words



Talks warning: Dr John Alderdice.

"At this point, the four parties and two Governments are developing a series of understandings in the different strands."

Accusation

"While it is true that the SDLP has reserved its position in Strand One and other parties have reserved their positions in other elements, we must do everything possible to find the agreement in the whole process that all our people want to see."

The inter-Unionist war-of-words continued, though.

DUP Press officer Sammy Wilson repeated his accusation that Ulster Unionists were being told that no role was being conceded to Dublin, yet papers and discussions at Stormont "do concede a role for the Irish Republic in the affairs of Northern Ireland".

Bitter

Mr Wilson claimed: "Once again, as they did at Sunningdale, the UUP is selling Ulster out by its wheeling and dealing behind closed doors and, given the support which Mr Molyneaux has offered his team, only one conclusion can possibly be drawn — from the top to the bottom of the party there is a willingness to cover those who have given everything in return for nothing."

This bitter assault brought a sharp rejoinder from Ulster Unionist general secretary Jim Wilson.

He said: "It is gross hypocrisy for the DUP to accuse the UUP of departing from the agreed joint Unionist pledge that neither Unionist party would negotiate unilaterally."

"The DUP themselves broke that pledge by unilaterally withdrawing from the talks last month, leaving the UUP to defend Ulster's position on its own."

A further DUP statement said they would not place their proposals for North-South issues on the table "until Dublin comes clean on what it intends to do about the territorial claim they have laid to Northern Ireland".

It accused Ulster Unionists of "ineptness" by letting the SDLP and Dublin know their own position without yet having to make any concession themselves.

Meanwhile, the Youth for Peace group warned politicians that any collapse of the talks would be seen by young people as "a betrayal of their generation".

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|--------------|----------------|
| Japan | 120 yen |
| Malta | 0.50 pounds |
| New Zealand | 2.79 dollars |
| Norway | 9.60 kroner |
| Portugal | 211 escudos |
| South Africa | 4.90 rand |
| Spain | 166 pesetas |
| Sweden | 8.89 kronor |
| Switzerland | 2.10 francs |
| Turkey | 11960 lira |
| US | 1.5360 dollars |

Popular Shares

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Abbey Nat | 325 |
| Anglian | 437 |
| BP | 236 |
| BT | 370 |
| Brit Aero | 140 |
| Brit Airways | 297 |
| Brit Gas | 268 |
| Brit Steel | 53 |

Additional share prices

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Albion | 45 |
| Ald. Irish Bk | 175 |
| Bank of Ireland | 174 |
| Br. Mohair Spinners | 141 |
| Chloride Group | 874 |
| Chrysler Corp | £16 1/4 |
| Cresta Holdings | 26 |
| De la Rue | 658 |
| Ewart Plc | 49 |
| Finlay (James) | 58 |
| Ford Motor Shares | £21 1/4 |
| Hampden Group | 35 |
| Harrison Crossfield | 129 |
| Lamont Holdings | 254 |
| M. I. M. Hldgs | 122 |
| McLaughlin & H | 40 |
| Powerscreen Intl. | 273 |
| Six Hundred Gp. | 33 |
| Stanley Leisure | 144 |
| Ulster TV | 264 |

The Punt

The opening foreign exchange quotation for the punt was 109.73 — 109.34.

Sterling

The pound at midday was 1.5675 dollars and 2.4092 marks compared with 1.5875 dollars and 2.4408 marks at the previous close. The trade weighted index was 78.4 against 79.3 previously.

FT Index

THE FTSE 100 index at 1pm was up 6.9 at 2668.5. The FT30 index at 1pm was up 3.8 at 1980.0.

Foreign close

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones index closed up 36.47 at 3244.11.

TOKYO: The Nikkei index closed up 173.03 at 17185.26.

Duke flies in for whirlwind

Libel fight with Marsh is not about money, says Warren

BOXING promoter Frank Warren today denied his

Asked by the judge, Mr Justice Drake, why he did