

SDLP PRESS OFFICE : PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, STORMONT

## SDLP PARTY STATEMENT

**PRESS RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE**

Last Friday's statement from the two Governments setting out firmly the context for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, followed by Saturday's IRA statement, have restored confidence in the political process.

The SDLP's own submission to the two Governments called for movement on all aspects of the Agreement. The Government statement sets out the timetable by which they will meet their responsibilities under the Agreement. The IRA statement indicates a willingness to co-operate with the International Commission to progress decommissioning. It is now for the parties to meet their responsibilities.

The Good Friday Agreement has challenged us all, and despite the difficulties which are presented, we believe there is now a firm resolution to meet that challenge to ensure the benefits of the Agreement are reaped for the good of the whole community. Despite the delays, we have learnt that progress can only be made by listening to each other, and by promoting an open dialogue in the spirit of the Agreement.

An immense programme of work awaits us all, when the institutions are restored. For our part we are determined to ensure that the social and economic agendas at which we were working on so effectively together before suspension, are returned to with even greater commitment than before.

Over the next two weeks the SDLP will be in close contact with all of the pro-Agreement parties to ensure that this great opportunity is fully grasped. We wish to express our deep appreciation for the immense efforts made by all who have helped to break the impasse.

ENDS

Date 8 – 05 - 00

Further information: Barry Turley [REDACTED]