

Partnership— The Only Way Forward

The recent opinion poll in the Belfast Telegraph confirmed the findings of all previous surveys.

Partnership Government remains the solution preferred by most people, and it is the ONLY option which gains significant support in BOTH communities.

“GOVERNING WITH CONSENT” is the most honest, realistic and comprehensive policy statement that any Northern Ireland political party has put before the public in recent years.



GOVERNING WITH
CONSENT

“We remain under no illusions about the difficulty of the task that is ahead. But the prize of achieving a political framework capable of offering an end to one of the most bitter inter-communal conflicts of the 20th century is a considerable one. No one should doubt the determination of the Alliance Party to see that prize grasped for the whole community in Northern Ireland”.

To obtain a copy of “GOVERNING WITH CONSENT”, please send £1 to:

Alliance Party Headquarters,
88 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HE.
(0232 324274, Fax 0232 233091).



GOVERNING WITH
CONSENT

The Alliance Alternative

Only political progress can end Northern Ireland's twenty year nightmare of violence and division. The creation of institutions of government which have widespread cross-community support, and which treat all citizens equally and fairly is essential for such progress. There can be no excuse for any political party to hold back from serious political discussions on the creation of such institutions. This leaflet sets out the Alliance Party proposals for the Future Government of Northern Ireland.

TOWARDS PARTNERSHIP GOVERNMENT

THE ALLIANCE PROPOSALS

NEW NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

ALLIANCE PROPOSES the transfer of power over Economy, Finance, Health and Social Services, Agriculture and Environment to a new NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY. There would be a consultative role on security.

BECAUSE only devolution has substantial support right across our divided community. Devolution provides the right framework for all citizens of Northern Ireland to work together.

PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

ALLIANCE PROPOSES a PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE based on the strength of the Assembly Parties, but excluding those who support violence.

BECAUSE majority and minority representatives must work and build together at the highest level of Government.

TEST OF ACCEPTABILITY

ALLIANCE PROPOSES a TEST OF ACCEPTABILITY with a WEIGHTED MAJORITY requirement in the Assembly for the new Executive.

BECAUSE any new administration must be widely accepted if it is to work.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

ALLIANCE PROPOSES back-bench COMMITTEES with membership based on the proportionate strength of Parties in the Assembly.

BECAUSE there must be effective participation in the scrutinising of the operation of the Executive.

CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS

ALLIANCE PROPOSES a BILL OF RIGHTS and also a RIGHT OF APPEAL to Westminster for aggrieved minorities, which would require 30% support within the Assembly.

BECAUSE all citizens must be confident that their essential rights will be protected.

CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

ALLIANCE PROPOSES that for devolved matters, the new Executive negotiate whatever arrangements are necessary for CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION.

BECAUSE cross-border co-operation over issues of joint interest, such as tourism and economic development makes sense.

ANGLO-IRISH CONTEXT

ALLIANCE PROPOSES a new three-way ANGLO-IRISH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY providing rights of consultation between Belfast, London and Dublin over matters of mutual concern.

BECAUSE good working arrangements with London and Dublin are essential for a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland.