



**THE ALLIANCE PARTY
OF
NORTHERN IRELAND**

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30 June 1990,

Rt Hon Peter Brooke MP.,
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland,
Stormont Castle,
Stormont,
BELFAST BT4 3ST.

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Dear Secretary of State,

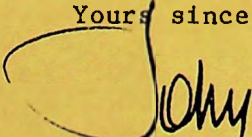
It has come to my attention that not only has the civil service decided to move Ian Burns to other duties, but also that it is envisaged that John McConnell is to be sent to another position later in the year. This seems to me astonishing.

The last couple of years has seen a good deal of very delicate communication and contact between the NIO and the political parties. We may now be at the point when this can take a significant step forward, and just at this point it seems that every senior civil servant who knows what has been happening is to be moved, or is heading towards retirement.

Your own striking success thus far has been due in a significant measure to the strong personal impression which you have made on the local political leaders. This is something which could not be transferred to anyone else. The one person within the civil service corps who inspires this kind of trust is John McConnell. At such a delicate time it would be an act of monumental folly to substitute someone else. If the talks begin, we will need every ounce of trust and confidence to see us through to success. To move John McConnell at this particular juncture would be to waste much of the capital of trust which he has built up. I would appeal to you to use your influence to delay this move for perhaps six months.

This issue has arisen in conversation with politicians of other parties and every one of them was of the same mind as myself, on this matter.

Yours sincerely,


Dr John T Alderdice
PARTY LEADER