

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF POLITICAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN HEADQUARTERS ON WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 1987 AT 1.00 P.M.

PRESENT: John Alderdice, Gordon Mawhinney, Howard Johnston, Tom Campbell, Mervyn Jones, Eileen Bell.

APOLOGIES: Bill Barbour, Dan McGuinness, Seamus Close, Sean Neeson, Stewart Dickson, Addie Morrow.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Copy of NIACRO Annual Report 1986/87. Available for reading on application to General Secretary.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. Party Leader reported that he will be meeting Alan Dukes (Fine Gael Party Leader) and Peter Barry (Fine Gael Spokesman) in Belfast next week.

2. Party leader stated Seamus would be unable to speak at the Life meeting on Monday 16th November 1987. Tom Campbell suggested Paul Maguire might be able to attend. Party Leader asked him to ascertain if Paul would be able and willing to go. Tom agreed and said he would report back.

3. It was agreed that it would be better to leave the launching of the leaflet campaign until next week. Party Leader said it would probably be on Tuesday depending on circumstances pertaining at the time.

POLITICAL SITUATION

1. The discussion of the Committee was dominated by the Enniskillen tragedy and the consequent statements, interviews, etc. General Secretary reported the Fermanagh and South Tyrone Alliance Party representative John Haslett has issued a statement locally and attended some of the funerals. It was hoped by all members that there would be no sustained retaliation.

2. Mervyn Jones reported the situation in Belfast Council after Enniskillen, and read out the motion to be proposed by the Joint Unionist Councillors at a special meeting scheduled for next Friday morning. A discussion on the wording of the proposal and a possible Alliance amendment ensued and it was agreed that careful consideration by our group would be necessary before any amendment is proposed. Mervyn Jones stated that there would be a meeting of Alliance Councillors some time prior to Friday to do this.

3. Tom Campbell reported on the ELDR Soarbrucken meeting last weekend and Deputy Leader suggested that it might be beneficial to instigate a letter writing campaign to the main European and American papers to promote our stance in current issues. Party Leader asked Deputy Leader to investigate the viability of such a project.

4. Party Leader stated that David Alton would be attending the next Political Strategy Meeting on the 18th November 1987, and he expressed the hope that members will make a special effort to attend.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Gordon Mawhinney stated that the Spotlight Programme on racketeering will be on next Thursday (19th November 1987).

**NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 1987 AT 1.00 P.M. AT HEADQUARTERS.**