

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF POLITICAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
IN HEADQUARTERS ON WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 1987 AT 1.00
P.M.

APOLOGIES: Dan McGuinness, Sean Neeson, Addie Morrow.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter requesting delegation to meet the Housing Executive Board. It was agreed that Party Leader, General Secretary and Housing Spokesman Mervyn Jones will attend and General Secretary will write to Housing Executive proposing Friday 13th November 1987.
2. Invitation from Progressive Democrats to attend their Conference now dealt with. Party Leader will not be able to attend. It was agreed that General Secretary will attend and it was recommended that the Executive be asked to appoint one or two more representatives.
3. Letter from Whitworth College Washington, re proposed meeting on 4th November 1987 10.00 - 11.30 - 4 students. It was agreed that General Secretary will liaise with Executive Link of Young Alliance Dan McGuinness re organising representatives from Young Alliance.
4. Report from F.E.A. on Derry City Council passed to Mervyn Jones.
5. Letter from Relatives Action Group requesting a delegation to meet their group to obtain fuller information about their concern over cases such as the Maguire Seven and Birmingham Six. It was agreed, after discussion that a delegation which would include Dan McGuinness Legal Affairs Spokesman, and Paul Maguire will meet a small number of their group at our Headquarters. General Secretary will write to their Secretary again after consultation with main members of our delegation.
6. General Secretary stated that the 1987 Amnesty International Report was available in Headquarters Library for any Committee member to read.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

1. It was reported that the meeting with Richard Needham on the matter of paramilitary involvements in Elected Representative Politics was scheduled for 9.30 16th October 1987 and will be followed by a delegation from the Partys Health and Social Services Committee at approximately 10.15 at the same venue.

2. Howard Johnston reported that West Belfast Election was progressing.

3. It was stated that there was, as yet, no reply from Mr Dukes (Fine Gael) or Mr Allan (OUP) to letters issued by Party Chairman.

POLITICAL SITUATION

1. There was full discussion on the resignation of Peter Robinson as Deputy Leader of the DUP and the repercussions of the decision. Party Leader reported that he will be participating in a seminar, organised by Fortnight Magazine, along with Ken Maginnis, Austin Currie and Peter Robinson. The theme of the round table discussion is the current political scene.

2. Mervyn Jones reported that surcharges imposed on councillors at the court action over the adjournment policy will be paid and therefore no disqualifications will be necessary.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

General Secretary circulated the menu of the Presentation Dinner in honour of John Cushnahan which is on the 19th November 1987 at the Bryansburn. She stated that it will cost £10 per person and it would be appreciated if committee members would confirm as soon as possible if they can attend as the numbers must not exceed 160. It would also be greatly appreciated if members could pay for their meal when they do confirm attendance.

Party Leader thanked members for coming and stated that he thought it was advantageous to maintain the continuity of the Political Strategy Meetings. The full committee will be announced in time for next weeks meeting.