

Alliance

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

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Commenting on today's joint declaration by the two Prime Ministers, Dr John Alderdice, Alliance Leader, said:

"My party welcomes this document. After carefully examining the whole communique, I believe that what the two Prime Ministers have produced is balanced and fair.

"They have tried to address the fears and concerns of people from all sections of the community, and have clearly affirmed that the future of Northern Ireland lies squarely in the hands of the people of Northern Ireland. This is as it should be.

"There is also a clear message to the paramilitaries: They have the opportunity to give up violence permanently and become part of the political process. It is up to the men of violence to decide if they are willing to heed the wishes of the people. Whether they do or not, this communique is the basis for solid political progress in the early New Year."