

6 October 1994,

Dr W Fitzgerald,

██████████
██████████ ██████████
██████████
██████████

Dear Dr Fitzgerald,

Your article was passed on to me by Mrs Margaret Irwin. Since things have been rather busy of late, I took it with me on my most recent visit to the United States, and read it on the plane.

Firstly thank you for your kind words about Alliance. I hope that we can always justify them.

You are of course correct that any attempt to bring about a United Ireland except through the consent of the Northern people would create a civil war. That is precisely the view expressed to me by Mr Reynolds when we first discussed the way forward many months ago. Indeed it is increasingly clear that all responsible parties in the Republic of Ireland, in Britain, and in Northern Ireland have moved to this position,

In my view any attempt to press towards a United Ireland will produce an antagonistic response. If however new structures are established on the basis of the Downing Street Declaration then the people will make their own decision. Whether in the future that will be a United Ireland, I cannot say. If it is inevitable as you suggest, it will by definition happen! My own experience has tended to suggest that few things in relationships are 'inevitable', but if one tries to push them to an assumed inevitable conclusion, the innate perversion of our race will fight against that.

On the economic front, I have just returned from the States, where I was exploring the prospects of financial assistance. Let me tell you quite simply, there is **no serious money** available. The people of the USA as a whole are completely uninterested in our problem, and for all the talk from Irish

Americans, there is no interest in putting serious money in here, except on a business basis.

The situation in Europe is the same. They are not at all concerned about us. They are very concerned about Central and Eastern Europe, and any spare money will go there. The Republic of Ireland will increasingly find this to be the case, to its cost. These economic realities must be faced as part of any realistic view of the future.

Further, I am, and have good reason to be, much less sanguine about Dr Paisley and his colleagues holding back from incitement of loyalist paramilitaries. In the case of Britain announcing an intention to withdraw, Dr Paisley would join with the paramilitaries to establish an Independent Ulster. He has already made this clear.

The future is not however gloomy. Much has happened in the past year, and mostly for the better. The Forum for Peace and Reconciliation, and the Framework Document soon to be published by the two Governments will provide a basis for talks which will involve Sinn Fein. Much difficult terrain lies up ahead, but the prospects for a lasting settlement before the end of the century are better than at any other time in my lifetime.

Thank you very much indeed for taking the trouble to send me your article, which I read with great interest. Please God we will be able to grasp the opportunities that lie before us and that the next generation will be able to make their decisions about their lives, in the peace this generation has never known.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John T Alderdice
PARTY LEADER

cc Mrs Margaret Irwin.