

Alliance

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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

UNIONIST INCONSISTENCY - ALDERDICE

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, has described unionist reaction to the Framework Documents, as 'inconsistent'.

Dr Alderdice said:

"In 1991 and 1992, we all sat around the table, receiving papers from each other, and spending days, and sometimes weeks, examining papers with which we did not agree, presented by other parties. One of the complaints by all the parties was about the failure of the British Government to produce a paper. Now that they have produced such a paper on **internal** arrangements, unionists refuse to talk about it. Had it been produced in the talks, three years ago, they would, like us have disagreed with aspects of it, but they would have discussed it.

At those same talks the Irish Government produced papers, which we all debated and examined. Again all the parties complained that on Strand 3 the two Governments did not produce any proposal papers. Had they been produced then we would all have discussed them. Why can they not be discussed now, three years later?

This sort of inconsistency leaves people in the rest of the United Kingdom close to exasperation, and leaves Northern Ireland people confused and uncertain."