

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Alliance

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" P R E S S R E L E A S E "

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Alliance meet two Governments together in Dublin

The Alliance party will meet the British and Irish governments together in Dublin tomorrow at 12.30pm, at Iveagh House. The meeting will take place over lunch. The idea of a joint meeting was put forward by Dr Alderdice at last Thursday's meeting between an Alliance delegation and the Secretary of State, Sir Patrick Mayhew. It marks the progression to a trilateral talks format and is the first meeting of its kind in this process.

Dr Alderdice said:

"It is very encouraging to see the development of real energy and momentum in the process. The almost hectic schedule of meetings now being undertaken by most of the parties to the process gives reason to be optimistic that the New Year will see steps along the road of All-Party talks and Decommissioning."

Speaking of this morning's meeting with the DUP at Alliance Party headquarters Dr Alderdice said:

"This meeting was a follow on from our last meeting in June and from our recent publication of proposals for an elected Convention. Whilst there are differences of substance in the sets of proposals from the two parties, I was encouraged by the purposeful way in which the meeting addressed the need to make progress towards a settlement despite our ready recognition of the many hurdles in the way. We have agreed to meet again early in the New Year to continue what have been quite fruitful exchanges."

[DUP delegation: I. Paisley, P. Robinson, Nigel Dodds, I. Paisley Jnr
Alliance delegation: J. Alderdice, S. Close, S. Neeson, Eileen Bell]

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Notes

The Alliance Party delegation led by Dr Alderdice will be available for interview from around 11.15am onwards at Dublin Castle. Otherwise, there will be a doorstep opportunity at 12.20pm at the front door of Iveagh house.

Information/interview requests should be directed to Paul McErlan on 0468 151972 (0044468151972 from Rol), also home number 01232 382978