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# Alliance

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

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Alliance Leader Dr John Alderdice, who is travelling to a teaching engagement in Salzburg, has expressed disappointment at the response of the SDLP and particularly Sinn Féin to yesterday's publication of the Alliance proposals for a Convention.

Dr Alderdice said:

"It is disappointing that people flatly turned down this proposal and completely misinterpreted its contents before reading them. For all the calls for inter-party talks, one rather has the feeling that there is little enthusiasm for real engagement. After all, why would anyone immediately slap down an offer of democratic talks without consideration, if they really wanted all party talks? It seems easier to complain than to engage.

"It would also appear that one of the fundamental rules of democracy still has to be learnt, that in working with others, you cannot have everything your own way or get everything you want.

"Perhaps what is most worrying is the implication that no Northern Ireland elected body will ever be acceptable. This is a clear rejection of the Framework Document and frankly makes all party talks a complete waste of time.

"If there is no possibility of an internal dimension - as distinct from an internal solution - there will be no agreement in all party talks. It is time that people came down from their international cloud cuckoo land and faced that reality.

"Despite these initial rejections, Alliance remains prepared and eager to discuss these ideas, hear the considered views of others and, we hope, make some progress."