



Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

21<sup>st</sup> -  
October, 1994.

Dr. John Alderdice,  
Leader,  
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland,  
88 University Street,  
Belfast BT7 1HE.

**Re: Forum for Peace and Reconciliation**

Dear Dr. Alderdice,

You will be aware of the Government's intention to establish the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation, as signalled in the Joint Declaration of 15 December, 1993, in the event of a total cessation of paramilitary violence. The broad aim of the Forum is to examine and make recommendations on ways in which agreement and trust between both traditions in Ireland can be promoted and established.

Following on from the further round of talks with the various participating parties this week I am pleased to inform you that it now appears possible to proceed with the establishment of the Forum. To that end I enclose a revised briefing note on the Forum along with its terms of reference.

I would like to confirm that Judge Catherine McGuinness of the Circuit Court has accepted the invitation to chair the Forum. The inaugural meeting of the Forum will take place from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Friday, 28 October, 1994, in St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle.

The format of that meeting is that the leaders or other members representative of each of the twelve groups in the Forum should make an initial statement. In your case I would suggest that this would be of 10 minutes duration. The inaugural meeting will be followed by a buffet lunch.

I would be grateful if you could advise me by next Wednesday, 26 October, of the 3 full and 2 alternate members which the Alliance Party is nominating to the Forum. I would also ask you to nominate a Secretary for your delegation who can liaise with the Forum Secretariat.

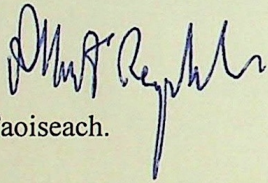


Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

- 2 -

I look forward to working with you in this important task of building trust and healing old animosities on this island.

Yours sincerely,



Taoiseach.