

Alliance

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

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ALDERDICE MEETS TRIMBLE

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, accompanied by the Party's Chief Whip Alderman Sean Neeson and Party General Secretary, Cllr David Ford had a 90 minute meeting today, Friday, with the Ulster Unionist Party Leader, David Trimble at the UUP headquarters in Glengall street. Mr Trimble was accompanied by Rt Hon John Taylor MP, Cllr Reg Empey and Mr Jeffrey Donaldson.

Speaking after the meeting Dr Alderdice said:

“This meeting was part of our series of ongoing discussions with various political parties and in line with the communiqué from the two prime ministers we will be intensifying our discussions over the next few weeks. Whilst arrangements for this meeting were put in place well before the meeting of the two prime ministers this week our discussions necessarily concentrated on the Major/Bruton communiqué and its implications. Questions of referendums, elections to all-party talks, the form of any talks forum an agenda for negotiations and the question of an international arms verification body were all part of a very wide ranging and useful meeting.

“Both parties agreed that the meeting was worthwhile but that we would need to meet again next week to take the discussions further because of the range of issues which much be addressed and party officials will be making arrangements for that future meeting.”

Contact: Paul McErlain - Press Officer on 0468 151972

3 March 1996

All interested groups should play their part - Alderdice

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, told his Party Council Meeting in Belfast on Saturday that in discussions to be conducted on an intensive basis over the next two weeks, Alliance will be working to ensure that the all-party negotiations which begin on 10 June will not simply be contested among the political elite, jockeying for party advantage.

Dr Alderdice said:

"One way of ensuring that the people have their say is to have a fair electoral system. Another possible way is to have referendums on worthwhile and meaningful questions. A third way would be to ensure that the community groups, the business community, trade unions, women's organisations and others, have an opportunity to present their views directly to the all-party talks body.

"This way of operating has been most successful at the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation and Alliance will be trying to persuade other parties to ensure that the peace process is open, accessible to the people, and that representation other than party politicians have an opportunity make a contribution. The political talks process - not any one section of our people.

Commenting on today's *Sunday Life* reports of a threatened loyalist return to violence:

"Any continuation by the IRA of their terrorist campaign or any resumption of terrorism by elements within loyalism would not only be the height of irresponsibility but will I believe be entirely and thoroughly condemned by all of our people. No-one but no-one has the right to take their peace away."

Contact Paul Mc Eriean 0468 151972 for more information.