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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

Alderdice warns IRA of political blunder

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, has warned the IRA that if they fail to renew the cease-fire, and thereby exclude Sinn Fein from the All-Party Talks, they will be making a 'serious political blunder'.

Dr Alderdice said:

"There is a moral imperative on the IRA to reinstitute the cease-fire, but there is also a pressing political imperative. If the IRA does not renew the cease-fire, Sinn Fein will be excluded from the All-Party Talks.

For the last four years enormous efforts have been made, by a whole range of people, to open the doors of democracy to Sinn Fein, but patience is wearing thin, and if the All-Party Talks begin without them, the future will either be one of Sinn Fein returning to self-marginalization, or the republican movement will have to fulfill the requirement of a cease-fire later on, when the process has moved along without them.

Republicans have reiterated repeatedly that this is the best opportunity for peace for twenty-five years. They should listen to their own words, take their own advice, and declare peace on the community. If the IRA were to fail to call a cease-fire before the Talks on 10 June they would be making a serious political blunder. It is not in their interests, or in any of our interests that they make such a gross miscalculation."

