

Press Statement 26/5/96

MAKE IT WORK AND WE CAN CONCENTRATE
ON THE BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES

Dr David Alderdice, Alliance candidate in North Antrim, in a statement this week, said:

"For too long in Northern Ireland the everyday issues such as health, employment, the economy had been subordinated by the constitutional issue. We desperately need constitutional stability so that politicians can concentrate more closely and cooperate more effectively on the 'bread and butter issues'.

The only realistic arrangement to allow this to happen is a power-sharing regional government, a Bill of Rights, cooperative North-South relations and respect for the Principle of Consent. We, in the Alliance Party, have been arguing for this for many years and are hopeful that we are nearing a time when the majority of political parties will see the wisdom of our way."

Dr Alderdice continued:

"The next stage of the political process is very delicate and will not be helped by the usual bluff and blunder which thunders from both sides. We are hopeful that we can get past the starting line for Talks but for that to happen we need leaders to act like statesmen not demagogues. A strong vote for Alliance on Thursday will send a message to all that Northern Ireland people do not want to stay in the trenches and an honourable settlement is truly desired.

Alliance has been using its comprehensive range of policies on social and economic issues down through the years to affect change at all levels of government. We look forward, however, to the time when these policies can be implemented directly through a regional government run by the people of Northern Ireland, for the people of Northern Ireland. In order for us to be in a position to establish regional government in Northern Ireland we need the political will to make the Talks process succeed. 'Make it work - For ALL of us'. Vote Alliance."