

ALLIANCE

CENTRAL PRESS OFFICE

Telephone: Belfast 324274

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: David Ford 0266 898170

CHECK BUT NOT A SET BACK- SAYS ALLIANCE LEADER

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, speaking from Westminster on the direct rule debate said :

'Whilst I welcome the public indication by the Secretary of State that considerable progress has been made in establishing and enlarging the areas of common ground amongst the political leaders in Northern Ireland, it is clearly a matter of some disappointment that he was not in a position to confirm when substantive negotiations could get underway.

Mr Brooke is to be commended for his patient efforts to nudge the political process along. He and everyone else involved has been careful and responsible in their discussions and in their public utterances.

We must regard this check in the process as an incentive to increased commitment to bridge the gap. It must not be allowed to be a set back.'

ENDS