

ALD2/2/6/10/2/445

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland Alliance

Headquarters

88 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HE
Northern Ireland

Telephone (0232) 324274
Facsimile (0232) 333147



Hume-Adams has put the gun at the centre of Irish Politics

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, has described tonight's announcement by the IRA that there will be no de-commissioning before a political settlement as a massive slap in the face for all those who accepted the propositions of the Irish Peace Process.

Dr Alderdice said:

"It has now become clear that all the cautionary advice given to Mr Hume and Mr Reynolds about the trustworthiness of the Republican Movement was justified. Sinn Fein is committed to negotiating, with guns at the ready.

The whole Irish Peace Process has been about Mr Adams out-flanking the SDLP leader John Hume, and the final blows have come in the last week. First the Sinn Fein election result has demolished the SDLP in whole areas of Northern Ireland, and now this evening's statement makes clear that there has never been any intention to disarm. The Hume-Adams project has not removed the gun from Irish politics, it has ensconced the gun right at the centre of Irish politics. We now spend our time talking about nothing else. Any subsequent cease-fire, if such there is, will be as conditional as the last one, and any Talks will be conducted in the shadow of the gunman.

Democratic politics here, in the Republic of Ireland, in Britain, and in America, has been, and continues to be, led a merry dance by Mr Adams and his colleagues, who ask people to 'vote for peace', but for whom the word 'peace' is but another weapon in their armoury."

To contact Dr Alderdice (7.30pm -10.00pm)

Ring the East Belfast Alliance Office 01232-652205

