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## “ P R E S S R E L E A S E ” 25 February 1997

### Accept the Discipline of Democracy - Alderdice

Speaking in the House of Lords on the Northern Ireland Decommissioning Bill, Lord Alderdice, Leader of Alliance, said that Republicans and Loyalists both had to accept the discipline of democracy.

Lord Alderdice welcomed the recent statements of John Bruton and Bertie Ahern, both of whom put the responsibility for violence squarely on the IRA and Sinn Fein. He criticised David Trimble for his demand to march along the Garvaghy Road, saying it put the police in an invidious position.

Lord Alderdice continued: "I call on the current British Government, and any subsequent Government, to be equally firm: that the door to democracy is open to all, but the demands of democracy apply to all."

"Republicans must accept the discipline of democracy. So too must Orangemen, whether as protesters at Harryville, intimidating Catholic worshippers, or as marchers at Drumcree, flouting the law and confronting the police."