

ALD2/2/6/11/2/20

Alliance

" P R E S S R E L E A S E "

12 Sept 1997

ALDERDICE WELCOMES SOS COMMITMENT

Alliance Leader, Lord Alderdice, has given a strong welcome to yesterday's announcement by the Secretary of State, Dr Marijoel Moyle MP, that the Government regards the next 12 months as a time frame in which a settlement can be achieved.

Lord Alderdice said:

"We have been calling for a specific time commitment for many months now. The previous Government were unwilling to set down a definite timetable and we believe that this mainly distributed as a lack of urgency on the part of some participants. We conveyed these concerns to the new Prime Minister, Tony Blair, some weeks ago and I very much welcome the Government's commitment to the legally established time frame of 12 months. I hope that the Government will hold to this timetable for Ireland that has been set by law, even when it is more convenient to do so. I encourage the Government to be encouraged to make progress and the introduction of the regulations. However, outside the Talks must not be seen to be an alternative way over an agreement."

Lord Alderdice can be contacted on 01224 794299