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PRESS RELEASE

Call the Parties to Security Talks - Alderdice

Alliance Leader, Lord Alderdice, has called on the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Dr Marjorie Mowlam MP, to recall the parties to the Talks for an immediate session on the deteriorating security situation.

Lord Alderdice:

"I regret to say that I have some doubts that the measures announced today by the Secretary of State will in themselves create a climate of confidence.

The failure of the parties to the Talks to reach agreement before Christmas, and the long-standing problems with the government's prison policy, have contributed to the current deteriorating situation. This must be remedied.

If the government really believes that the parties to the Talks may well be running affairs here in a year or two, then the Secretary of State should call senior representatives of the parties together to consultations about the situation. Let us get involved together in addressing the problem.

Our input is not going to make the situation any worse, and it may well be helpful to have Northern Ireland people taking more responsibility for the situation. Confidence is only likely to be rebuilt when those in whom the people have already placed their confidence are involved in making the changes necessary."