

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland Alliance

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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

10 January 1997

Alderdice comments on Kennedy meeting

Alliance Leader Lord Alderdice, speaking this afternoon following his meeting with Senator Ted Kennedy at the US Consul's official residence, said:

"This was, as always in my meetings with Senator Kennedy, a friendly and useful exchange of views. However I did point out to the Senator that while his understandable wish for an all-inclusive settlement was an ideal which everyone of goodwill would share, it is simply not going to happen. The reality is quite different.

Firstly, Ian Paisley's DUP, which represents many more people than Sinn Féin, and dwarfs the Loyalists in size, are not in the Talks, so any agreement will obviously not include them. Secondly, there have been no indications as yet that Sinn Féin are prepared to sign up for anything which moves far from their commitment to a United Ireland and the settlement will not be a United Ireland or even anything approaching Joint Authority.

"I find that it is always worthwhile to meet with and brief those interested visitors and friends who wish the peace process well, not least to temper their sense of ideal with a large dose of political reality, which is often far from anyone's ideal."

For further information contact Richard Good, Press Officer, on 0468 151972 (mobile).