

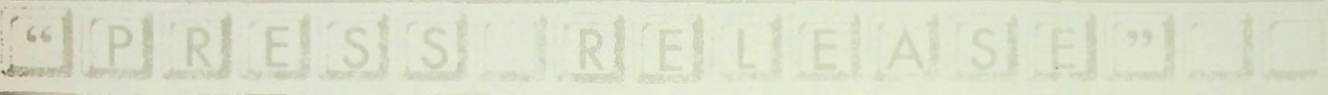
# Alliance

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Headquarters

88 University Street  
Belfast BT7 1HE

Tel: (01232) 324274 Fax: (01232) 333147  
e-mail: alliance\_party@btv.compulink.co.uk



22 January 1998

## Alderdice Calls On Government To Separate Politics From Violence

Alliance Leader Lord Alderdice, speaking before this afternoon's meeting with the Prime Minister at Downing street, has reacted to the Chief Constable's disclosure regarding UFF involvement in murders.

Lord Alderdice said:

"It is now absolutely clear, beyond any doubt, that the UFF have been involved in at least three of the recent murders. We have repeatedly raised questions within the process about the open flouting of the Mitchell principles, but the government has refused to act.

"It is now time, and I will be putting this to the Prime Minister this afternoon, for the government to act. They are a participant in the process, and the rules allow any participant to raise this for consideration by the governments. The position we have advocated since the beginning is simple: politicians either disavow any connections or support for the paramilitaries using violence, or they fall under the same condemnation as those paramilitaries.

"It is now up to the government to take clear and decisive action to separate the political process from the men of violence. We now have a fair basis for negotiation - if politicians wish to be part of those negotiations they know what they must do."

For further information, or to arrange an interview, contact Niall Johnston in London, 0973 561175.