

# Alliance

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

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## “ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

### Alderdice Optimistic About Agreement

Alliance leader Lord Alderdice speaking at this afternoon's Chamber of Commerce lunch has spoken of his optimism at the prospect of political agreement and a return of power and responsibility to Northern Ireland's politicians.

Lord Alderdice said:

“Over the last two weeks of talks, I have become increasingly optimistic about the possibility of parties reaching a political agreement. After ten years when the prospects have looked at times very bleak, we are now reaching a point when we need to look very seriously at how we as politicians will run Northern Ireland from a devolved assembly. As businesspeople, you will be aware of the need to look seriously and realistically at what resources are available, and to think creatively about how those resources can be maximized.

“Today we launch a new economy paper. We believe it meets these challenges. It proposes new and dynamic thinking about the shape of an administration, the agencies which will be needed to build an economy fit for the future and how we can and should work with those in government in the Republic, in Scotland and Wales, and in Europe.

“We must not simply create new structures and add them on top of the current overweighty bureaucracy. To do so would make for massive over-management, and the document also addresses these problems. The Alliance Party is determined to meet the challenges ahead. I hope and believe that the business sector feel likewise.”

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