

...both. The Serious Fraud Office said yesterday that it had taken over the report, the net assets of the bank are ...ing in the ...porate finance.

Golden silence surrounds Ulster talks

By Ralph Atkins in Belfast

"You not speaking to us any more, Sammy?" shouted a radio journalist from the temporary barrier beside the Stormont parliament building outside Belfast.

Mr Sammy Wilson, the youthful, straggly-haired and normally loquacious press officer of the Democratic Unionist Party turned and smiled. But he said nothing.

Silence and discretion were the better part of historic talks on the future of Northern Ireland which started yesterday.

Reporters were unable to get within 50 yards of the participants - except for staged pictures of arrivals, or by chasing the processions of polished Ford Granada and Rover saloons that sped through the 300 acres of landscaped gardens around Stormont.

It did not go quite to plan. Mr John Hume, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, missed the entrance set aside for delegations. He drew up his slate grey Granada in the car park, forcing him to walk through the waiting media circus. "Be patient," he urged.

A lone protester, Mr Cedric Wilson, former DUP mayor of Castlereagh, scrambled up the grassy banks around the parliament building to shout: "No surrender to Dublin rule."

The SDLP was the first party to hold bilateral talks with Mr Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary. Unionist leaders will not meet him officially until Friday with the first round-table discussions starting probably early next week. The date of the Irish government's involvement is yet to be determined.

Later, a hunched Mr Hume fumbled with his car keys, trying to avoid questions. He would say only that talks had been about "setting out the machinery and agenda for the talks". Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader, sucked his pipe as he got in the other side.

By afternoon the arrange-



The Alliance Party team arrive at Stormont headed by Dr John Alderdice (centre)

ments had been sorted out. Dr John Alderdice, leader of the Alliance party, arrived 15 minutes ahead of schedule, as silent as the classical Greek columns of the 1920's parliament building.

Before 1972, Stormont was a living parliament. Now, empty but still majestically overlooking Belfast suburbs, it is a monument to two decades of direct rule from Westminster.

Mr Brooke was anxious that all sides should keep discussions confidential, through fear of raising passions by misunderstandings. That the parties have followed suit underlines apparent determination to give the talks a chance of success in spite of difficulties. It is the first time nationalists and unionists have sat at the same table for 15 years.

Mr Brooke himself said

nothing to the press all day.

The media have been confined to Portakabins erected beside the west wing for the duration of talks for which 11 weeks have been set aside and extensive preparations made. There are vending machines, fax machines and photocopying facilities.

The Northern Ireland Office, at least, is not expecting an early breakdown.

before being charged. The police said yesterday that the report, the net assets of the bank are "porate" finance.

Golden silence surrounds Ulster talks

By Ralph Atkins in Belfast

"You not speaking to us any more, Sammy?" shouted a radio journalist from the temporary barrier beside the Stormont parliament building outside Belfast.

Mr Sammy Wilson, the youthful, straggly-haired and normally loquacious press officer of the Democratic Unionist Party turned and smiled. But he said nothing.

Silence and discretion were the better part of historic talks on the future of Northern Ireland which started yesterday.

Reporters were unable to get within 50 yards of the participants - except for staged pictures of arrivals, or by chasing the processions of polished Ford Granada and Rover saloons that sped through the 300 acres of landscaped gardens around Stormont.

It did not go quite to plan. Mr John Hume, leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, missed the entrance set aside for delegations. He drew up his slate grey Granada in the car park, forcing him to walk through the waiting media circus. "Be patient," he urged.

A lone protester, Mr Cedric Wilson, former DUP mayor of Castlereagh, scrambled up the grassy banks around the parliament building to shout: "No surrender to Dublin rule."

The SDLP was the first party to hold bilateral talks with Mr Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary. Unionist leaders will not meet him officially until Friday with the first round-table discussions starting probably early next week. The date of the Irish government's involvement is yet to be determined.

Later, a hunched Mr Hume fumbled with his car keys, trying to avoid questions. He would say only that talks had been about "setting out the machinery and agenda for the talks". Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader, sucked his pipe as he got in the other side.

By afternoon the arrange-



The Alliance Party team arrive at Stormont headed by Dr John Alderdice (centre)

ments had been sorted out. Dr John Alderdice, leader of the Alliance party, arrived 15 minutes ahead of schedule, as silent as the classical Greek columns of the 1920's parliament building.

Before 1972, Stormont was a living parliament. Now, empty but still majestically overlooking Belfast suburbs, it is a monument to two decades of direct rule from Westminster.

Mr Brooke was anxious that all sides should keep discussions confidential, through fear of raising passions by misunderstandings. That the parties have followed suit underlines apparent determination to give the talks a chance of success in spite of difficulties. It is the first time nationalists and unionists have sat at the same table for 15 years.

Mr Brooke himself said

nothing to the press all day.

The media have been confined to Portakabins erected beside the west wing for the duration of talks for which 11 weeks have been set aside and extensive preparations made. There are vending machines, fax machines and photocopying facilities.

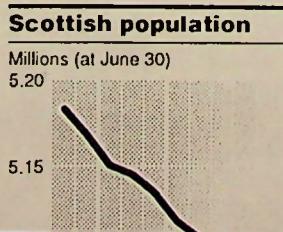
The Northern Ireland Office, at least, is not expecting an early breakdown.

Migrants halt decline in Scottish population

By James Buxton, Scottish Correspondent

THE long-running gentle decline in the Scottish population was reversed last year for the first time since the mid-1970s as Scotland, normally a reliable source of emigrants, received an influx of migrants.

In the year to June 30 1990 the estimated population rose by 11,700 to 5,102,400, according to Scotland's registrar general.



Fimbra bids to regulate 'multi-tied' agents

By Paul Nuki

THE troubled Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association has thrown its hat in the ring as a potential supervisory body of the "multi-tied" finan-

False star

The sale of an ECC

EXPORTERS, who have long campaigned against the proposed privatisation of the short-term insurance business of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, believed they finally had the government on the run as the deadline for bids passed yesterday.

Three responses were received to the invitation to

that and were carries of nt to id/or rson, pur- 58 of
real fifth aster- nt of its over- society
ssing down ance pre- eties 1986 com-
tech- was able in uni- lson aking £1m.
out ts to abled rease - pro- ter of steep com-
sub- cars, drive Rover three r cent ter.
er atings id yes- astics £50m try of 1,000 Rover
ng the domes- 20 per ounced trad- ing be- tween ices to domes- 20 per cife, a 20 per re for

By TH ma Ma £1 T sal- ref in thi am the £3. mo of I in Me th: ce: ot! Th the pe qu- tra £3 in £8 - Th - S TI In fr ar Bl ri tr Jc tie no in bu ri- Ru Co ex de le