

Alliance

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

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26 April 1992,

Mr Paul Maguire,
16 Marlborough Pk Cross Avenue,
BELFAST BT9 6HQ.

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter. I am very sorry indeed that you will have to stand down from the talks team.

I am delighted at your appointment, which you will doubtless fulfil with customary distinction, but I really do regret that it deprives us of your high talents at the negotiating table. I remain cautious about the prospects, though this time, I am for various reasons permitting myself to be just a little more upbeat. Only the next three months will say whether this is justified. In such a context your constitutional legal expertise will be sorely missed. I am however reassured that it will not be out of order for me to be in touch with you in a private capacity, to ask for advice on relevant matters as they arise.

I would also want to say that I highly value your steady judgement, and I would trust that you will feel it not just a possibility, but a welcome service and responsibility as a citizen to be in touch with me from time to time with your views of the current situation.

With Kindest Regards,

Dr John T Alderdice
PARTY LEADER

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20/4/92

Dear John,

Now that the election is over no doubt you will be turning your mind to the talks process again. Thankfully the election result should mean that our presence at the talks is not in jeopardy. However I'm writing to say that with considerable regret I find that I have to stand down from the talks team. The reason for this is that I have within the last few weeks been appointed to a part time chairmanship of industrial tribunals and a condition of appointment is that I do not take part in party political activity.

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This would of course rule out overt activity such as would be involved in the work of the party delegation at Stormont. If I can be of assistance by giving advice, particularly legal advice, in the background, please let me know.

Naturally, like all sane people in the Province, I will be hoping for real progress at the talks and will be keeping my fingers crossed. Good luck.

I would like finally to thank you for your support in appointing me to the talks team in the first place and hope that you understand why I must in these circumstances (and with great reluctance) stand down.

Yours faithfully
Paul Maguire