

ALLIANCE PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES OF POLITICAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN HEADQUARTERS ON WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 1987 AT 1.00 P.M.

PRESENT: John Alderdice, Gordon Mawhinney, Tom Campbell, Howard Johnston, Sean Neeson, Seamus Close, Addie Morrow, Stewart Dickson, Mervyn Jones, Dan McGuinness, Paul Maguire, Eileen Bell.

APOLOGIES: Bill Barbour. CORRESPONDENCE - None.

Party Leader opened proceedings by welcoming David Alton Liberal Chief Whip and Liberal Northern Ireland Spokesman to this meeting of the Committee. David then gave a short address during which he covered several topical issues such as his Abortion bill and the Liberal Party's attitude to Extradition and mixed courts. He also commented briefly on the current situation vis a vis the ongoing discussions and consultations between his Party and the SDP, and confirmed that it was still the wish of the Liberal Party that close links should be established with us and consideration should be given to this once their position is rationalised. Then there was a lively question and answer session with committee members on all the points. David concluded the session by saying that he personally hoped that our parties would continue to have close contacts, and he was keen to continue as Northern Ireland spokesman for some time. He then thanked the Party Leader and Committee for their invitation to join the meeting.

1. Party Leader then returned to the Agenda and discussed last weeks minutes and matters arising. He stated that the leaflet had been launched at a Press Conference last Tuesday and resultant publicity was quite good.
2. There was discussion about the meetings held at the weekend to commemorate the 2nd Anniversary of the Anglo Irish Agreement and the comments of the Unionist Leaders were noted with some concern. Party Leader stated that he hoped to go to Enniskillen this Sunday for the Remembrance Day ceremony, but would have to check out details first.
3. There was further discussion on the position of Sinn Fein after Enniskillen, and Mervyn Jones reported on the situation in Belfast City Council. It was agreed that there should be constructive discussion of the whole council situation and our attitude to Sinn Fein at the Councillors Meeting this coming Saturday.
4. Party Leader reported that Alan Dukes and Peter Barry would be in Party Headquarters tomorrow (Thursday) and he hoped that it would be a worthwhile meeting. He will report on it next week. He also stated that he would be meeting John Stanley next week for introductory talks.
5. The meeting then concluded with a final report on format and timing etc of tomorrow nights Presentation Dinner for John Cushnahan.

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER AT 1.00 PM AT HQ.