



Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach

19 October 1994

Dr John Alderdice
The Alliance Party
88 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HE

Dear Dr Alderdice

The proposals for representation in the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation are for discussion with all the parties in a second round of consultations, after which decisions will be taken by the Government.

The proposals had a weighting bias in favour of the Northern Ireland parties, and also generally in favour of smaller rather than larger parties. The proposals with regard to the Northern parties, in the absence of an Assembly, are based on the electoral record over a number of recent elections, and were intended to be as objective as possible with regard to the balance between the electoral mandate of each party, both within the North and where applicable South of the border as well.

Representations have been received from a number of parties, including your own, to adjust their membership, to which in principle we are favourably disposed. As such changes may impinge on the position of other parties, it is important to listen to the views of all parties before making any final decisions.



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It would be my desire and the desire of the Government that the Alliance Party would feel able to participate in the Forum, as I know it has a valuable and unique contribution to make. We will seek to the greatest extent possible to facilitate the participation of Alliance and indeed all other parties that wish to take part on as fair and equitable a basis as possible, and we will try to take further into account any special considerations or arguments that have been put forward. I look forward to talking the matter over with you, and as you will be the last party which I will be seeing, the Tánaiste and I hope to be in a position, having listened to your case, to make definitive proposals to try and resolve your difficulty.

Yours sincerely

Taoiseach