

19 October 1994

Mr Albert Reynolds
Taoiseach
Leinster House
Dublin

Dear Mr Reynolds

I was deeply disappointed by the outcome of discussions between Irish Government Officials and Alliance Party Officers, in respect of the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation.

At their last meeting I understand that our position on representation was made very clear, but your Government's proposals, which take no account of these views, were released to the press, not only in advance of any agreement with ourselves, but even before informing us.

I am not one, as you know, for threats and bluster, and in deference to the courtesy and respect which have characterised our relations to date, I have personally refrained from an openly angry public response. But I must make it clear to you that I regard the proposal to give us a lesser representation than Sinn Fein to be a humiliating snub. It is entirely unacceptable to us and unless the problem is fully addressed, Alliance will not be in a position to participate in any way in the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation.

It is obviously preferable if we can resolve this matter before our meeting on Friday, though I confess to being less optimistic this morning than I was yesterday.

Yours sincerely

Dr John T Alderdice
PARTY LEADER

cc Mr Dick Spring