

FORUM FOR PEACE
AND RECONCILIATION



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RECONCILIATION

NOTE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE
FORUM FOR PEACE AND
RECONCILIATION

*Following consultation with delegations it has been decided
that all sessions of the Forum including Committee meetings
will be postponed until 15 March 1996.*

*Forum Secretariat
14 February 1996*

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Alliance

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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

14 February 1998
For immediate release

FULL NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF ELECTION: ALDERDICE

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, has told Unionists today that they must commit themselves to full-scale negotiations within two weeks of any elections to All-Party Talks.

Dr Alderdice said:

"If the British Government is to proceed with arrangements for elections to All-Party Talks then it can only be on the basis that the Unionists commit themselves to starting full-scale negotiations within two weeks of the poll.

"Nationalists are concerned that after all the trouble of an election, Unionists might likely stall further on getting to the real meat of the negotiations and some comments by Unionist politicians have strengthened their fears. I have told Prime Minister John Major, that I would support his proposal for an election, if he makes it a requirement that all parties make a commitment to enter serious negotiating mode within two weeks of that election.

"Of course we must also bring the other Track of the process with us too, and that means that all parties to the negotiations must sign up for the Mitchell Report. That means both Governments, and any party that wants to participate in the negotiations.

"Any proposal which assists in getting these ground rules sorted out and accepted quickly should be espoused. Intensive talks, call them proximity talks or whatever, may well contribute to that. Any proposal which is not immediately relevant to this is merely a distraction, since getting a negotiated settlement is too urgent to allow ourselves to be distracted."

Contact Dr Alderdice via Headquarters (01232 324274)
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