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The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland Alliance

Headquarters

88 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HE

Tel. (01232) 324274 Fax. (01232) 333147
e-mail alliance_party@cix.compulink.co.uk

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HUME DEADLINE CALL 'BIZARRE'

Alliance Leader, Lord Alderdice, has described as 'bizarre' John Hume's call today for a timescale for Talks.

Lord Alderdice said:

"John Hume seems to have forgotten that the timescale for which he is calling, has already been set down in legislation. The timescale was twelve months. Almost half of that time has now past. The Talks now have about seven months left. This is exactly the kind of time-frame for which he is now calling. Why is he calling for a time frame when it is already there, in the legislation.

The only explanation that I can find for his extraordinary call, is that he has already in his mind given up on the current talks, and is thinking to some new set of talks focussed around the presence of Sinn Fein."