

ALD2/2/6/10/2/446

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland Alliance

Headquarters

88 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HE
Northern Ireland

Telephone (0232) 324274
Facsimile (0232) 333147

“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

IRA closing the door on Peace - Alderdice

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, has described yesterday's interview in An Phoblacht/Republican News, with a senior member of the IRA, as 'a cold shower for those who believed that a vote for Sinn Fein was a vote for peace'.

Dr Alderdice said:

"This interview makes it clear that the IRA has no intention of ending the terrorism short of achieving its aims. There is no evidence that the Sinn Fein leadership is prepared to split from this position, and therefore it is increasingly difficult to see how the high hopes raised about a lasting peace on the basis of the Hume/Adams scheme, were justified.

This interview is also something of a cold shower of reality for those who believed that a vote for Sinn Fein was a vote for peace. The IRA has taken the increased vote for Sinn Fein as support for the continued war, and has not only rejected the elected Forum but also the All-Party Talks process, for which they repeatedly called, and in which they professed such interest.

Some of the parties involved in the Talks Process have now begun the difficult task of repairing the damage done by that excessive attention to the extremes. This work will be slow and painstaking, but I believe that we have already made some halting progress."

