

ALD2 12/6/11/2/22

# The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland Alliance

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## Alderdice welcomes cease-fire, but.....

Alliance Leader, Lord Alderdice, has welcomed the Sinn Fein call for an IRA cease-fire, but says that given previous experience, any such cease-fire must be treated as tactical, unless republicans can show it is otherwise.

Lord Alderdice said:

“We have all been calling for an IRA cease-fire, and it is of course very welcome news to hear that there is going to be one. However, those of us who acted on trust the last time, will have to assume that this is a tactical development, unless republicans can demonstrate their bona fides.

A cease-fire will bring them into the Talks when they restart on 15 September, but there will need to be confidence-building measures from republicans, and the most important will be co-operation with international observers on a process of de-commissioning, which will also involve loyalists.

Mr Trimble the Ulster Unionist leader must now see that it is crucial that his party votes, on Wednesday next, for the de-commissioning proposals put forward by the two governments, otherwise Sinn Fein will come into talks on September 15 without a decommissioning process being agreed. Ulster Unionists should also not deceive themselves that the process will now collapse if they withdraw. In my view the Talks will be continued if there is an IRA cease-fire, even without the unionists.”

**Telephone follow-up to Lord Alderdice at (01232) 793097**

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