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Alliance

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Headquarters

88 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HE

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

“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

MARY MCALEESE SHOULD RE-CONSIDER HER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

Speaking outside the multi-party talks at Stormont, Lord Alderdice, Leader of the Alliance Party, said:

“It may now be in the interests of the peace process for the Republic’s Presidential candidate, Mary McAleese, to consider whether her continued candidacy is now a help or a problem for the peace process.”

Lord Alderdice said:

“Mary McAleese has declared her wish to contribute to the peace process as a ‘bridge’. Regrettably, the morass of leaks, distrust and partisan politicking which has overtaken her campaign is now making her more of a wedge in the process than a bridge.

“It is not for me to tell the people of the Republic who they should vote for but I do have an overwhelming concern about the peace process - as far as I am concerned everything else is of secondary importance. It is now clear that, if the people of the Republic were to elect Professor McAleese, parties from the SDLP through to the Unionists would regard it as an unhelpful contribution to peace and reconciliation. Similarly, her failure to be elected would clearly create turmoil and political distrust in the Republic. The only way of resolving this would be for her to consider withdrawing at this stage.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact Niall Johnston on 01232 522778 or Pager 01523 427102