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" P R E S S R E L E A S E "

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Alderdice criticises Parties threatening walk-out.

Alliance Party Leader Lord Alderdice has criticised those who are threatening to walk out of the talks process, claiming that their actions pose more questions than they answer.

John Alderdice said:

"Threatening to walk out of the Talks provides no answer to the challenges which face us. Rather, it poses two questions:

"Firstly, the question of the political judgement of those who are threatening to leave. Do they think that leaving the process will produce a better outcome, and are they prepared to leave the field for others to finish the game without their input?"

"Secondly, The possibility of a return to violence in the wake of walk-outs poses a question over the democratic credentials and commitment of these parties. The one option that is not open to a true democrat is the threat or the use of violence. To exercise such an option puts politicians outside the pale of democracy.

"This is not a time to walk out, but rather a time to knuckle down to business."

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