

ALD2/2/6/11/2/1/68

DR PHILIP MCGARRY



Alliance Spokesman Dr. Philip Mc Garry has called upon the UUP and SDLP to reconsider their opposition to the proposal made by Lord Alderdice to the Secretary of State for an early resumption to the Talks process.

It is disappointing that at a time of great fear throughout the community local politicians seem so reluctant even to meet and try to work together for the whole community. Many people will be very surprised that at this tense and dangerous time there will be no political dialogue for another two weeks.

It is not impossible that within 18 months we shall have as an integral part of a settlement, a power-sharing Assembly in N. Ireland which will have responsibility for dealing with 'sensitive' issues such as prisons and security. If this does come about it will no longer be possible to respond to a crisis simply by blaming everything on the NIC.

If politicians are really serious in their desire to get a real agreement then the current situation presents an opportunity to show how they can work together to deal with difficult problems. If however in the immediate aftermath of these two brutal killings they continue to make little real effort to come to genuine compromises then we must realistically be extremely cautious in our hopes for 1998 and beyond.