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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

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UDP expulsion the right decision:Alderdice

Alliance Leader Lord Alderdice has described as “the expulsion of the UDP from the multi-Party talks as “the right decision”. Speaking after the final Plenary session of the day Lord Alderdice said:

“This has been an extremely fraught day for the Talks process. Last week the Alliance Party took the decision that we were not prepared to turn a blind eye to the killings being carried out by the loyalist paramilitaries represented in the Talks by the UDP. There could be no question in our minds of treating these paramilitaries any differently to others, and no question that if the process was to be saved from the potential of increased violence from the UFF and other groups, the Mitchell Principles would have to be invoked.

“Gradually the two governments and an increasing number of the parties followed our lead, and after a difficult day of decision making, it was agreed by the overwhelming number of participants that the UDP would have to be expelled. It was not an easy decision, but I believe it was the right one.

“I believe it is also significant, and regrettable, that so far neither the UDP nor the UFF and UVF grouping which carried out the killings have expressed any remorse for the totally unjustified murders that have been committed in recent weeks.”

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