

Loyalists And Republicans Should Meet On Arms Question - Alderdice

30 March 1998

Alliance Leader, Lord Alderdice has called for David Ervine, Gary McMichael and Gerry Adams to sit down together to determine how they will deal with the weapons question.

Lord Alderdice said:

"While we can all sit down around the table on most of the issues, the only parties which can have an effect on the weapons question are the Loyalists and Republicans. The sconer that Gerry Adams, Gary McMichael and David Ervine sit down together without the rest of us, the better. Or perhaps it should be Martin McGuinness and Gusty Spence.

"As far as the Peace Process is concerned, it is the belligerents who can produce peace. The rest of the parties, the parties of the broad centre - the SDLP, Ulster Unionists and Alliance - can do little on the weapons, but must shoulder the responsibility for the political settlement which our electors sent us here to negotiate."

Notes: Lord Alderdice will be raising this matter in the Review Planarity scheduled for this morning.

For further information, contact Richard Good: 01232 522778 (Stormont) 0468 151972 (Mobile) 01426 245779 (Pager)