

Alliance

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

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Alderdice warns government of dangers to the Agreement in weekend prisoner releases

The Alliance Leader Lord Alderdice has warned the government over the weekend decision to release prisoners for the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis. In putting a question to Northern Ireland Minister Lord Dubs in the House of Lords this afternoon, Lord Alderdice was responding to a question about Guardsmen Eisher and Wright.

Lord Alderdice asked the following question:

"Is the Minister aware that such questions are particularly natural after a weekend when convicted terrorists have been released to attend a political meeting, and that the concerns represented by such a question are but a pale shadow of the wave of anger sweeping across NI that the incessant and insatiable demands of paramilitary parties always seem to taken precedence over the reasonable requirements of democratically rooted parties, law-abiding citizens, and even justice itself, and is HMG aware that such so-called risks in aid of the settlement are in grave danger of themselves becoming risks to the settlement?"

Speaking after the debate Lord Alderdice said:

"There is a real danger that in bending over backwards to keep extremists on board the political process the government is actually doing more harm than good to the campaign for a 'Yes' vote in the Referendum. I often feel that there is little appreciation at the Northern Ireland Office of the offence caused to the vast majority of law-abiding people by actions intended to appease one set of extremists inevitably followed by a balancing appeasement of another set of paramilitaries with little attention being paid to what is right and what is reasonable.

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