

Ulster Democratic Party

17th September 1997

Today represents a new stage in Northern Ireland's history, with the potential to move the political process into a new dimension. The Ulster Democratic Party is firmly committed to bringing a peaceful future to the people of Northern Ireland and a democratic settlement in the context of a stronger union.

While important, outstanding issues have yet to be satisfactorily addressed, the Ulster Democratic Party will pursue a speedy resolution of these matters so that three stranded negotiations can proceed.

Negotiation promises to be challenging for all parties, but the greatest challenge will be faced by republicans, who must learn to conform to the democratic parameters of this process. The requirement to achieve the consent of the people of Northern Ireland, which is the fundamental principle upon which these Talks are based, ensures that an outcome other than a continued union with Great Britain is inconceivable.

Republicans must come to terms with the realities of this process and join the rest of us in the search for a democratic settlement and the creation of a fair society for the Northern Ireland community.

ends.