

Alliance

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Headquarters

88 University Street
Belfast BT7 1HE

Tel. (01232) 324274 Fax. (01232) 333147
e-mail alliance_party@cix.compulink.co.uk

We have heard what the Secretary of State has said in response to our request last week for a report on the relevant events. In our view Sinn Fein is no longer entitled to participate in these Talks on the grounds that they have demonstrably dishonoured the principles of democracy and non violence set forth in the Report of 22 January 1996 of the International Body.

Consistent with paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Command Paper which is part of the legal basis of these Talks, observance of the Mitchell Principles requires participants to be opposed to those who use force to influence the course or outcome of all-party negotiations. In the absence of a clear statement of opposition to the plans and purposes of those who carried out these two murders, we believe Sinn Fein to be in breach of the Mitchell Principles. The remedy for this latter position is of course entirely in the hands of Sinn Fein.