

## DUP response to the Alliance Party's submission on alleged breaches of the Mitchell principles dated 10 September 1996.

The Alliance Party's submission is as nauseating as it is contemptible. It is a cocktail of lies, half-truths and innuendoes. It purports to produce proof of breaches by the DUP of the Mitchell principles but does not provide even a grain of evidence to substantiate their spurious claims. The Democratic Unionist Party is proud of the action of its leadership and members who were engaged in upholding the principles of democracy and non-violence arising from the Garvaghy Road residents threats against a peaceful parade. The defence of inalienable rights and freedoms are consistent with the Mitchell principles and the extent to which they are opposed by the Alliance Party and their Republican allies is indicative of their political bias. Moreover, the references to the Member of Parliament for Mid Ulster, Dr William McCrea, are defamatory and have been submitted by him to his solicitors. As these issues are to be brought before the courts, they are *sub-judice* and we intend to make no comment upon them.

*refer participants to the document, Conclusions of the Governments on Representations made by the DUP against the PUP and the UDP, as clear indication that charges made against the loyalist parties in Item 2 of An Alliance Party submission on breaches of the Mitchell Principles, are without foundation and, moreover, have already been dealt with.*

*2. The Ulster Democratic Party, however, feel obliged to make some comments in relation to the reaction of the DUP spokespersons to the findings contained within the document, Conclusions of the Governments on Representations made by the DUP against the PUP and UDP.*

*a) The only basis upon which Sinn Fein can enter negotiations is clearly spell out and contained within the Northern Ireland (Entry to Negotiations, etc.) Act 1996. That Act refers to paragraphs 8 and 9 of Command Paper 3232 which unambiguously states that Sinn Fein can only gain entry to the negotiations via "the unequivocal restoration of the cease-fire of August 1994." It is clear therefore that any findings contained within the document mentioned in Item 2 of this paper have no impact whatsoever on the ability of Sinn Fein to enter negotiations.*

*b) Public statements by DUP spokespersons claiming that the exorcism of the UDP and PUP of any breach of the Mitchell Principles has "provided a ticket for Sinn Fein to enter negotiations without any change in the position of the IRA" are, therefore, without any foundation.*

Monday 16th September 1996