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# ALLIANCE

## PRESS RELEASE

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### No Point in Talking to Spring - Alderdice tells Unionists

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, has reacted angrily to Tanaiste Dick Spring's negative comments about elections to All-Party Talks.

Dr Alderdice said:

"I am afraid that if unionists were to ask me about talking to Dick Spring, at present, I should have to tell them that they would be wasting their time. I don't believe they would find him open minded or prepare to listen to what they have to say.

"Prior to Christmas I and my colleagues, participants in the Forum, arranged to meet Mr Spring. Immediately in advance of the meeting he condemned in forthright terms the proposals which he knew their content. A failure of politeness, much less of open-mindedness. Now he claims that elections to all party talks are a notion from only one side of the community. I regard that as a smear to my party, and a degree of partisanship, which seriously weakens the value he can have as a constructive contributor to balanced agreement. I trust that he will realise how damaging these remarks have been. If not, then it begs some questions about whether he wants talks in order to have a real exchange, or whether it is all about playing political games."

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