

Ulster Democratic Party

16 September 1996

With regard to the document, *An Alliance Party submission on breaches of the Mitchell Principles*, submitted on 10 September 1996, and, more specifically, to Item 2 of that document.

1. The Ulster Democratic Party 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 spelt 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 exoneration 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.