

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

IRELAND



Reference Code:	2006/131/1420
Creation Date(s):	14 February 1975
Extent and medium:	1 page
Creator(s):	Department of Foreign Affairs
Access Conditions:	Open
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PRESS RELEASE

SDLP

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY

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Ref: DMcA/JD/Y1/B138

14th February, 1975.

EMBARGOE 4.00 p.m. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

UNANIMOUS 'FIGHT ELECTION' DECISION BY SDLP

The SDLP Executive Committee has decided unanimously to contest the election for the proposed Constitutional Convention.

Accordingly, all constituency organisations will be receiving instructions immediately about the holding of selection conventions in each of the 12 constituencies.

A statement issued by the Executive following a special meeting to discuss the whole question of the elections said:

"We will fight the election confident that we will again increase our support as we have done in every election to date.

"It has always been our opinion that the proposed elections were unnecessary in view of the number of elections which have been held in the last two years.

"We have consistently asked for talks between elected representatives about future constitutional arrangements in this community.

"We regard it as essential that these elections should be held after a period of peace which would enable people to reach mature political decisions on the vital issues involved.

"Moreover the British Government must spell out clearly the nature of the decision to be taken. In particular they must leave no one in any doubt that any acceptable solution must be based on powersharing in government and an Irish dimension.

"In no circumstances will this Party lend credence to a patched up arrangement which would, in effect, restore sectional domination".