

cc: PS/Secretary of State (L and B) - M
 PS/PUS (L and B) - M
 Sir Ewart Bell ✓
 Mr Angel (L) - M
 Mr Gilliland
 Mr Abbott (L) - M
 Miss MacGlashan
 Mr Blatherwick
 Miss Christopherson (L) - M

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: LIST OF CANDIDATES

1. Nominations for the Assembly elections closed on Tuesday evening and, although official figures are not yet available, it is understood that there will be a total of 184 candidates in the 12 constituencies. The number of candidates for each party is as follows:-

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)	- 42
Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)	- 35
Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)	- 28
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland (APNI)	- 20
United Ulster Unionist Party (UUUP)	- 12
The Workers' Party (WP)	- 12
Sinn Fein (SF)	- 12
Ulster Popular Unionist Party (UPUP)	- 2
Communist Party of Ireland	- 2
People's Democracy	- 2
Others (including independents)	- 17

A full list of the candidates in each constituency is at Annex A.

Ulster Unionist Party

2. There have been a number of local disputes within the UUP about the selection of candidates and my earlier note of 17 September identified the split in the party between the integrationist and the devolutionist wings. Two of the UUP's 5 Westminster MPs, William Ross and Enoch Powell whose integrationist views are well known, will not be standing: they will probably mind the shop at Westminster while Mr Molyneaux mainly devotes himself to the local scene. The UUP manifesto, launched on Tuesday, stressed the need to transform the Assembly and remove the requirement for cross-community support. The official UUP line is that the Assembly, in its present form, cannot and will not work but it is expected that one or two constituency associations will contest the elections on a much more pro-devolutionist manifesto.

Democratic Unionist Party

3. The DUP are fielding a strong team which includes two of their three Westminster MPs, Mr Paisley and Mr Robinson, and a number of prominent local councillors such as George Graham from Newry and Mourne, William Beattie from Lisburn, William McCrea from Magherafelt and David Clavert from Craigavon. The DUP manifesto, launched yesterday, commits the party to using the Assembly as a means of making direct rule more accountable. It also promises a strong line on security and a "forthright stand" on moral issues. The Party's election slogan is "Let's get back to the Stormont way". John McQuade is being retired from politics.

Social Democratic and Labour Party

4. Following the SDLP decision to contest the elections but not to participate in the Assembly, two of the party's leading spokesmen, Michael Canavan and Paddy Duffy, announced that they would not be seeking nominations. Both men were members of the former Northern Ireland Assembly and argued strongly for a nationalist boycott of the elections. Meanwhile in North Belfast and South Antrim, two SDLP moderates Brian Feeney and Alisdair McDonnell, failed to win their party's nomination. Seamus Mallon, the SDLP deputy leader, is running in the Armagh constituency despite the fact that, as a member of the Irish Senate, he would be disqualified from taking his seat in the Assembly. The absence of Mallon, Duffy and Canavan should help the moderates in the party, though much will depend on who is elected.

Alliance Party

5. There are no surprises amongst the Alliance candidates. Those most likely to win seats include Oliver Napier, Basil Glass, John Cushnahan and David Cook.

United Ulster Unionist Party

6. The UUUP was formed in 1977 as a breakaway movement from the Vanguard Party. The UUUP is fielding 12 candidates including its sole Westminster MP, John Dunlop, former Assembly member, Robert Overend, and party leader, Ernest Baird.

The Workers' Party

7. The Workers' Party is fielding candidates in 10 of the 12 constituencies. After its poor showing in the 1981 council elections, when its share of the vote dropped to only 1.8% and 3 of its 6 councillors lost their seats, it seems unlikely that the Workers Party will do well in the Assembly elections. They may however be able to secure a seat in Armagh where local councillor Tom French is a hard-working constituency representative.

Sinn Fein

8. As expected, Sinn Fein (who have dropped the word Provisional from their title), are fielding a total of 12 candidates which, at previous elections, has been the minimum number which entitles a party to broadcasting time. Leading candidates include Gerry Adams (West Belfast), Joe Austin (North Belfast), Martin McGuinness (Londonderry) and Owen Carron (Fermanagh and South Tyrone). Sinn Fein's electoral prospects are hard to assess and much will depend upon them being able to win votes from IIP supporters (the IIP are not contesting the elections). Owen Carron, the MP for Fermanagh/South Tyrone and former election agent for Bobby Sands, has the best chance of winning a seat but the appearance at the polls for the first time of prominent men such as Adams and McGuinness will undoubtedly attract votes and they could also take a seat in West Belfast. In mid-Ulster, one of the two Sinn Fein candidates, Benedict McIlwee, is a brother of one of the dead hunger strikers.

Smaller Parties and Independents

9. There are a plethora of smaller parties and independent candidates contesting the elections, representing all shades of opinion from the Communist Party of Ireland through Peoples' Democracy and the Ecology Party to the Ulster Loyalist Democratic Party. Two of the more colourful independents are local councillor Billy Clulow (One Honest Man Steadfast) and Simon Hall-Raleigh from Kings Lynn who polled 12 votes at the South Belfast by-election earlier this year as a Peace candidate.

10. In North Down, local MP James Kilfedder will be fighting the elections on behalf of his own Ulster Popular Unionist Party and is

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likely to win a seat. In East Belfast, the appearance of former MP Bill Craig, who is standing for the Vanguard Party, could upset earlier calculations. He is likely to obtain a good deal of support and will take votes from both the UUP and the DUP. The independent with the best chance of success is Frank Millar Snr, a former UUP man and a prominent member of Belfast City Council. Two notable absentees are Gerry Fitt and Paddy Devlin. Mr Fitt announced earlier this week that he would not be standing because he had been so upset at the recent death of a young soldier in West Belfast. Whatever his publicly stated reasons, Mr Fitt must realise that he would have had little chance of gaining a seat.

11. It is far from easy to provide a reliable forecast of the election results. However, we would expect the UUP and DUP to win about 48 seats between them with the UUP probably in a slight majority. The Alliance Party seem likely to pick up 9 or 10 seats and the SDLP about 15 or 16. The remaining seats will probably go to Sinn Fein (one or possibly two), the Workers Party (one), Mr Kilfedder for the UPUP, and Mr Millar an independent Unionist.

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Political Affairs Division

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