

Monday 19 January 2009

## NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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### DUP NEWS

#### Latest News:

### NI Affairs Committee & Goggins back DUP over troubles definition

Upper Bann MP David Simpson has welcomed comments from both Security Minister Paul Goggins and from Chairman of the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Sir Patrick Cormack that they would not support any recommendation from the Eames/Bradley consultative group to reclassify the Troubles as a 'war.' Speaking after raising the issue in a Commons debate David Simpson said:

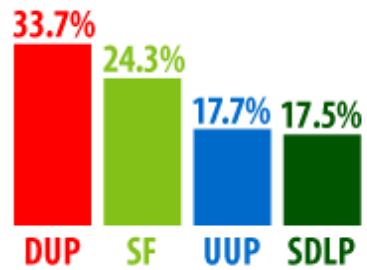


*"The possibility of reclassifying the long years of criminal terrorism as a 'war' was first briefed to the press from someone inside the Eames/Bradley group. The suggestion was insulting in the extreme. Whatever the motive of those who conducted that press briefing there is no doubt that it severely damaged the Eames/Bradley project almost at the very beginning. The Northern Ireland public will never support any attempt to whitewash the history of Northern Ireland or to portray those who engaged in terrorism as soldiers.*

*There was no war fought out in the ditches and hedgerows of Northern Ireland in the middle of the night behind the victims' backs. Those who blew up the War Memorial in Enniskillen or deliberately targeted civilians attending a dog show at La Mon House*

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*were not engaged in a war. Rather there was a sectarian criminal terrorist campaign waged against men, women and children with many of the victims deliberately singled out solely because of their religious affiliation. I welcome this public commitment from both the Security Minister and Chairman of the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee that they do not regard the Troubles as a 'war' either.*

*I sincerely hope that those involved in the Eames/Bradley group listen to that message; that wiser counsel will prevail and that there will be no additional insult given to victims of terrorism from those whose remit was to help victims and society as a whole find a way of addressing the legacy of the past together."*

### Note to Editors

The comments of Paul Goggins and Sir Patrick Cormack can be found by following the link below:

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/whall/?id=2009-01-15a.139.0&s=speaker%3A11892#g156.0>

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