

Wednesday 28 January 2009

NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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DUP NEWS

Latest News:

Trimble should keep victims to fore of his thinking

Upper Bann MP David Simpson has criticised proposals from the Eames/Bradley Consultative Group on the Past and has underscored the importance of the proposals not being advanced. David Simpson said:

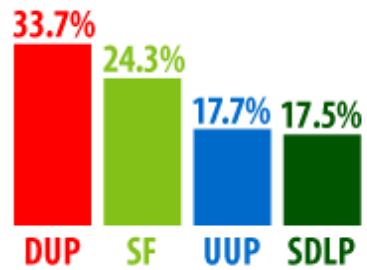


“This Group has had a divisive existence right from its earliest days. It had barely been set up before people from within it were briefing the press to the effect that the long years of terrorism should be re-classified as ‘a war.’

The Eames Bradley Group, established by the Government in London , displays all of the negative influence associated with the days of Direct Rule. It is not that long ago that a Direct Rule Secretary of State proposed to the House of Commons that an amnesty be put in place for fugitives from justice. Now we have this latest outrage being cast in the teeth of innocent victims of terrorism.

This proposal is inappropriate, wrong and deeply offensive. It has rightly been condemned on all sides. While I welcome David Trimble’s recent comments concerning this proposal I was disappointed to hear him say that he could understand the reasoning behind it.

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The Tory Peer should keep in mind that very many terrorists who were killed were subsequently buried with full paramilitary trappings oftentimes with the approval of their families. Many would interpret this as a very clear and public approval of their role in paramilitary organisations. That places them on a very different level from ordinary men, women and children whose only crime was to fall victim to terrorists' illegal behaviour. I hope that when they reflect further on these proposals, people like David Trimble will think again.

Any Unionist who favours a return to Direct Rule should consider the outrageous proposals which came from Direct Rulers on dealing with the past. This is the same Government which allowed terrorist prisoners to walk free from jail and proposed a terrorist amnesty. The DUP will be dealing directly with the Government on this issue and will be using every other avenue available to block this proposal from advancing. Currently, it is simply a proposal to the Government and we will be working to ensure that it goes no further."

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