

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

STATEMENT BY CLLR REG EMPEY, ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY NEGOTIATOR AT THE MULTI- PARTY TALKS

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EMPEY DEMANDS US CRACKDOWN ON SINN FEIN/IRA

It is a matter of grave concern that Mr Tony Lake, President Clinton's National Security Advisor, has stated that the US Administration will maintain contact with the leadership of Sinn Fein/IRA irrespective of the bombing of Thiepval Barracks in Lisburn. The Lisburn bomb should have brought home to the US administration the essentially unreformed and undemocratic character of that organisation. Sinn Fein must be taught that their electoral mandate will not be allowed to be used as a mandate for violence. US Condemnation is only meaningful if it is followed up by action aimed at the perpetrators of the Lisburn outrage - Provisional Sinn Fein/IRA.

The Clinton administration must now realise that by destroying one of the main planks of President Clinton's foreign policy within a month of the Presidential election that the Sinn Fein/IRA feels it owes Clinton nothing for all the assistance they have received from that quarter. The carrot and carrot approach will only serve to encourage Sinn Fein of the belief that they can switch on and off the violence at will without paying any price. To take no punitive action cheapens the loyalist ceasefire and fails to make any distinction between those committed to peaceful methods of pursuing political ends. The US administration does not enter negotiations with their home-grown terrorists in the militias so why with the IRA?

The US administration must implement a series of measures aimed at dismantling the Sinn Fein fund-raising network in the US that has enabled Sinn Fein/IRA to restock their supply of armaments. First, the Cairde Sinn Fein (Friends of Sinn Fein) offices must be forcibly closed down and their assets seized before they are repatriated to Northern Ireland to finance more high-profile terrorist attacks. Second, any further applications for visas by Sinn Fein personnel must be refused, whether for fund-raising or propaganda purposes. Third, the administration must make clear their support for a political process involving democrats alone.

Sinn Fein, contrary to their assertions, were more than amply rewarded by the British, Irish and American governments during their ceasefire and yet they seek more concessions through violence. If the US administration does not believe that Sinn Fein have had concessions enough they should have the courage to state what more should be offered. A policy that always rewards and never punishes will only put off the day when Sinn Fein/IRA calls a credible ceasefire and Northern Ireland will enjoy a real peace.

ENDS

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