

in this proposal but the advantages will, by placing the IRA as an intact, well armed terrorist organization, in the full glare of world attention, far outweigh the disadvantages. Being seen to be unwilling to cooperate with U.S. and other international commissioners will portray the IRA as it really is.

It would also leave McGuinness and several others in a dilemma in relation to which wing of Sinn Fein/IRA they really belong.

Commitment to exploratory talks with Sinn Fein would obviously be less frequent under the new circumstances where Government would not be obliged to respond in advance of progress reports from the DISARMAMENT COMMISSION. Similarly with Loyalist groups.

While this proposal may not let the Government entirely "off the hook" but it would be a good start.

The Ulster Unionist Party will continue to seek to play a more direct and formal role in encouraging Government to become more pro-active and purposeful in its dealings with the very real terrorist threat which still exists".

Late in 1995 our government with a reluctant Irish government set up the International Body. It was not given the impetus that we envisaged but a start had been made.

On 16 December, 1995, David Trimble and I made the following submission to the Commission which we prefaced with U.S. President Bill Clinton's Belfast statement a few days earlier:-

*"You must stand firm against terror. You must say to those who still would use violence for political objectives - you are the past; your day is over. Violence has no place at the table of democracy; and no role in the future of this land".*

It continued:-

"The joint British and Irish Downing Street Declaration was agreed in December 1993, and was unequivocally endorsed by the United States administration. It obliges all concerned, including the terrorist organizations within both traditions, to accept that the constitutional future of Northern Ireland can only be decided with the consent of its people, given through the ballot box.

It had much to do with United States opinion, evident during the Gerry Adams visit in February 1994 and subsequently, that caused the Provisional IRA to call its ceasefire some 6 months later. However, it was apparent that this response had little to do with any belated goodwill towards the community, merely being intended to open a window of political opportunity for the Provos.