

DAVID ERVINE

UDF LEADER

UDF COUNCILLOR OF LISBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUP SPOKESMAN

Background

In his mid-20's Mr McMichael is a financial consultant. Educated Born in July 1953, Ervine is married with two children. Educated at Orangefield Boys Secondary School in East Belfast, Ervine was sentenced to 11 years imprisonment for possession of explosives in 1974. He was released in 1980. In 1994, Ervine came to prominence as a spokesman for the PUP enunciating their position and setting out a socialist unionist agenda.

murdered by PIRA in 1987. He took up his father's mantle from that

Highly articulate and skilled at presenting the PUP's position as reasonable and pragmatic, Ervine clearly enjoys the spotlight. Rumours surface from time to time of his pronouncements earning the disapproval of Loyalist leaders suspicious of Ervine representing their interests with less enthusiasm than his own.

elected to Lisburn Borough Council. He was the UDF's sole elected representative until several UDF defectors in Newtownabbey joined the party in December 1994.

A member of the Loyalist delegation involved in exploratory dialogue (1994) with H&L.

JUNE 1996

Personality and Political Views

Closely resembles his father in both looks and manners and fully shares his political viewpoint. A shrewd and reasonably mature politician, given his age, who has clearly set out goals and purpose. In a local newspaper interview some time ago, he admitted no higher political ambitions, above Council politics. Sees the way forward only through dialogue, and has gone on the record that he would be prepared to sit down with Sinn Féin after they are admitted fully into the democratic process. During the IRA ceasefire, he shared a platform with Mitchell McLaughlin, SP National Chairman, at a fringe meeting of the Liberal Democrats Conference in Glasgow (June 1994).