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- NEWS
- SPORT
- ENTERTAINMENT

- LOCAL NEWS
- NATIONAL NEWS
- INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- YOUR STORIES

**NEWS ARCHIVE**

- 17:36 From high life to low ebb
- 17:36 A punitive crackdown will never
- 17:11 Increase in C-Diff linked deaths
- 12:29 Air quality better since ban
- 12:28 Timeline: Labour's funding travails
- 11:49 Residents protest against dumps
- 11:32 TV deception: Channel 4 and Five
- 10:59 Cluster bomb ban agreed in Dublin
- 09:44 Shutdowns and plunging profits
- 09:40 Dublin commuters face severe delays
- 09:14 Man charged with Tyrone shooting
- 08:59 Jury exemptions may be swept away
- 02:46 Fifa suspends ban on high-altitude
- 01:23 Cardinal urges Muslim leaders to
- 00:53 Police question ex-boss of EADS
- 00:53 What a waste: dream of free energy
- 00:53 Moscow diary
- 00:53 Food diary: Surrey, UK
- 00:52 QinetiQ has £200m expansion
- 00:52 Country diary

**YESTERDAY**

- 20:47 McCartney murder trial
- 20:45 Stone`s bombs could have killed
- 20:43 Price hikes hit hard
- 19:08 Former Bush press secretary claims
- 19:00 The many problems of Sellafield
- 15:54 170 new jobs for NI
- 14:08 Double firebomb inquiry
- 14:05 Three suicide deaths in a week
- 13:18 Food diary: Banaue, Philippines

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- 11:30 The Final Week
- 11:07 Background: Royal regimes
- 11:07 Fall of the house of Shah: end of
- 07:30 Telegraph hosts anti-immigrant
- 03:32 Poland stalls Bush's 'lame duck'
- 03:20 Spacemen call up Earth and ask for
- 02:37 Exam pits pop's lyrical prowess
- 02:26 How rag and bone man left grandson
- 02:26 Oxford's £1.
- 00:38 Nuclear submarine seeks port after
- 00:07 Germany remembers gay victims of
- 00:06 Police staff to patrol youth

### YOUR COMMENTS

-  `Loss of a true Champion`  
173 comments
-  Civil servants sick 14 days a year  
15 comments
-  Price hikes hit hard  
14 comments

### LOCAL NEWS



R. Eames & D. Bradley

Thursday 29 May 2008 17:14

### Illegal state activity "must be admitted"

The group tasked with asking how Northern Ireland should deal with the past has delivered its progress report.

The Consultative Group on the Past, established by the Government last year, said innocent people had been allowed to die.

Co-chairmen, retired Church of Ireland primate Lord Eames and former Policing Board vice chairman Denis Bradley, said it was not just the actions of the republican and loyalist groups that had to be come to grips with, but those of the British state as well.

Lord Eames explained: *"Elements of the state, on some occasions, acted outside the law and through handling of intelligence it could even be said innocent people were allowed to die.*

*We cannot ignore that, in fact, the state sometimes acted illegally."*

Lord Eames added: *"If we are to move out of the past in a healthy way then the state itself needs to acknowledge its full and complex role in the last 40 years."*

The final report would make suggestions on how that could be done, he said.

However, *"having to confront the state about acknowledging its wrongdoing must not take away from the majority of men and women in the RUC and UDR/RIR who did their duty and suffered appallingly and unjustly as a result"*, he also added.

Lord Eames said everyone must be encouraged by developments in Northern Ireland over the past few years, but also warned:

*"Despite the appearance of moving forward the reality is that we live in a society that is still divided. There are issues from the past that must be dealt with if we are to truly ensure that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. Dealing with the past will secure our future."*

Sinn Fein boycotted the event, saying it protested at the failure of Lord Eames and Mr Bradley to invite republican groups representing the families of those who were victims of British state violence.

A spokesman for the Consultative Group said they had not invited any victims' groups to the event for fear of missing someone out.

All such groups would be invited when the full report is launched later in the year, he said.

The material for this story has been provided by PA

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## VOTING POLL

The Children's Commissioner is attempting to ban smacking in Northern Ireland. Do you agree it should be banned?

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