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 THURSDAY 30/11/2006 09:32:13
DUP reject collusion claims

Irish authorities demanding action from the British Government over damning new evidence of security force collusion in a series of loyalist terrorist murders during the 1970's were tonight told: Get your own house in order first.

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Jeffrey Donaldson, a Democratic Unionist MP who once served in the Ulster Defence Regiment, defended the organisation and police in the face of a devastating dossier of alleged collaboration in paramilitary bombings and shootings in the Irish Republic.

After studying Mr Justice Henry Barron`s report into 18 murders, an Irish Parliamentary Committee concluded that collusion was widespread.

Irish Premier Bertie Ahern described the report as "deeply troubling", stressing how his administration had consistently pressed the British Government for any co-operation it could provide on these incidents.

But although Mr Donaldson accepted that rogue elements were involved in atrocities such as the 1975 Miami Showband massacre, he insisted it did not prove that systematic security force plotting with the loyalists took place.

He said: "There`s no evidence that these individuals were acting under the direction of anyone within the security forces.

"It could also be claimed that there`s evidence of collusion between security forces south of the border and the provisional IRA in a number of cases.

"I would say to the Irish Government, you should be very cautious about pointing the finger at the security forces in Northern Ireland.

"They might be better served at this stage inquiring into allegations of

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collusion in their own territory.

"There`s a lot of grey areas here and people should be wary about seeking to build a case based on considerable ambiguity."

Mr Donaldson insisted the regiment`s integrity remains intact.

"Just because there were a few rogue elements, as indeed there were south of the border, does not mean to say any organisation like the UDR or the RUC was corrupted by collusion. I simply believe that was not the case."

The Pat Finucane Centre, a human rights lobby group in Northern Ireland, demanded immediate action from the British Government.

Its researcher Alan Brecknell, whose father died in a gun and bomb attack carried out by loyalists in south Armagh, allegedly with security force assistance, called on Northern Ireland secretary Peter Hain to disclose all available documents to the Irish authorities and victims` families.

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On 30 Nov at 10:39 - D from Tuaisceart Éireann said:

Here!, Here! Mr Donaldson. The Irish State would have to be whiter than white before it starts throwing accusations around or it just amounts to pot calling kettle black. The questions remain : Did the Governments of the Republic ever harbour terrorists or hinder justice, was there ever any collusion in gun running or in obtaining arms for the I.R.A. ? Where are the Enquiries for the Unionist / British people ?

On 30 Nov at 10:59 - Barry from Dublin said:

How can Jeffrey Donaldson deem himself to be in a position to say that no collusion ocured between the British security forces and loyalist paramilitaries? Two reports have now been published stating that there is evidence of collusion.

On 30 Nov at 15:35 - Sean from Canada said:



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the DUP only ever see what it wants to see and this is a prime example

On 1 Dec at 19:22 - michael from calgary said:

The UDR just like the RUC were an arm of the unionism state, How could there not be collusion? and if memory serves me right it was the british government that disbanded both. Why do you think they did that ?

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