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Local & National

McCord to meet Hillary on US trip

Monday, February 26, 2007

By Stephen Breen and Chris Thornton

The campaigning father of loyalist murder victim Raymond McCord Jnr is set to meet United States presidential candidate Hillary Clinton when he goes to America next month.

Raymond McCord Snr will present Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan's report into his son's murder to Mrs Clinton and other US politicians during his week-long visit from March 19.

"My visit to America is part of a cross-community initiative in which victims can be given a chance to highlight what they have been through," he said.

"I am going to tell the truth and to inform the American people how agents of the state in Northern Ireland were paid huge amounts of money while they continued to murder innocent people."

The north Belfast man, who is standing as an independent candidate in the March 7 election, is also waiting to receive confirmation of his first meeting with Tony Blair.

He hopes to meet the Prime Minister to discuss the publication of Mrs O'Loan's report after next week's Assembly election.

Mr McCord requested the Downing Street meeting through north Down UUP MP Lady Sylvia Hermon after it emerged he is to meet Mrs Clinton.

Lady Hermon said: "Since Secretary of State Peter Hain showed scant sympathy and interest when he met with Raymond McCord and myself late last year, I was determined to facilitate a meeting between the McCord family and the Prime Minister."

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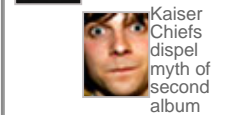
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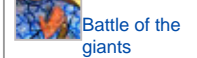
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