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Legacy Commission to be key part of Eames-Bradley report

By Brian Rowan
Wednesday, 14 January 2009

Northern Ireland will have a Legacy Commission if the now imminent Eames-Bradley recommendations are accepted.

The Belfast Telegraph understands this is the proposed name used in a detailed report, which will be presented by the Consultative Group on the Past at a Belfast news conference on January 28. As expected the group has avoided the Truth and Reconciliation title used in South Africa.

The Legacy Commission — working within a five-year timeframe — will examine Northern Ireland's violent past and set a route to the future.

Before the Belfast news conference, the Eames-Bradley report will be sent to the Northern Ireland Office and copied to the Irish government and the Office of First and Deputy First Minister.

In recent public speeches Lord Eames and Denis Bradley, who co-chair the group, have set out much of the group's thinking. They ruled out an amnesty as well as a South African-type Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

On the latter, Lord Eames told the annual meeting of the group Relatives For Justice: "That was their solution to their problem. What we need is our solution to our problem."

While the title of the proposed commission has not been revealed up to this point, the main proposals of the Consultative Group have been disclosed.

These include separate Investigation and Information Recovery Units working inside the proposed Commission and examining the violence of a decades-long conflict.

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