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Brown to be briefed over the Troubles legacy plan

By Brian Rowan
Wednesday, 21 January 2009

Prime Minister Gordon Brown is to be briefed within the next 24 hours on the plan for dealing with Ulster's violent past.

He will meet Lord Eames and Denis Bradley — co-chairs of the Consultative Group on the Past — in Downing Street tomorrow afternoon. Secretary of State Shaun Woodward will also be present.

A spokesman for the Consultative Group confirmed the meeting but would not be drawn on detail. The London talks come just days before the unveiling of the near 200-page document, which is the end result of 19 months of work by the Eames-Bradley team.

That report is now with the printers and is due to be released next Wednesday.

At the heart of the document is a proposal to form The Legacy Commission. As revealed in this newspaper last week, that is the name the Eames-Bradley Group has recommended.

It is anticipated there will be a significant period of consultation and debate before any commission is formed.

If the recommendations are accepted, the commission will be the home for new Investigations and Information Recovery Units — looking not just at the past but how Northern Ireland should move into the future.

Prime Minister Brown will be briefed on the mechanisms designed to get to the truth of a decades-long conflict.

Crucial to its success will be the co-operation of all sides — not just republicans and loyalists, but the Government and security forces. Over the next few days, the Consultative Group will be asked to explain the process and give its assessment of likely co-operation.

The UVF met the Eames-Bradley team as part of its consultation, but the IRA and UDA did not. There is no guarantee that any of these organisations will work with the proposed Legacy Commission.

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mickey, I couldn't agree more. Well said.

Peace, reconciliation (and forgiveness if that is ever possible) take time not some grand scheme decided by men in suits.

Posted by Bill | 21.01.09, 11:05 GMT

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Plans for dealing with Ulster's violent past?

Put it down on paper and file it away in some seldom visited vault.

Let peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland take place gradually and more importantly, naturally. Those ultimately not wishing to embrace this should be shown the door - in no uncertain terms - until such time as they are prepared to. Time's a great healer, so even the most bitter (and there are some who write on these very pages) might move on.

Posted by mickey | 21.01.09, 10:40 GMT

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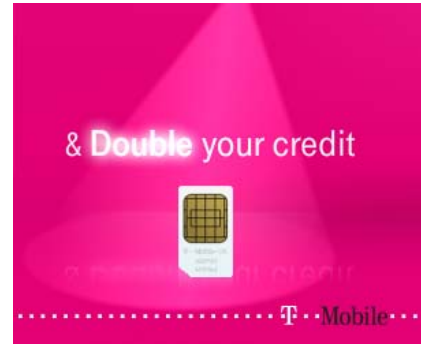


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