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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY

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DUP NEWS**Latest News:****Change in Republican attitudes underway**

DUP Member of Parliament for East Londonderry, Gregory Campbell has said the changing attitude of Republican politicians to the rule of law is further proof of the distance they have travelled but demonstrates how far they need to go in that the words must be followed through with actions. The DUP MP said that developments such as a senior Sinn Fein figure standing alongside the Chief Constable, condemning the recent terrorist atrocities and urging people to go to the police with information will be seen as progress. Speaking today, Gregory Campbell said:

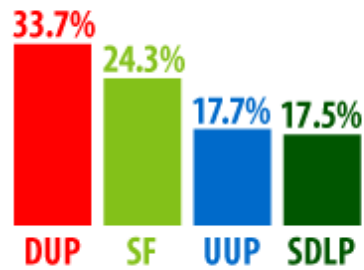


“There was a time, even after the republican movement realised the futility of their killing campaign, when they would have refused to speak to a police officer, let alone stand alongside the Chief Constable. This week we have witnessed republican leaders urging their community to co-operate fully with the police and provide them with information to bring dissident republican criminals to justice.

The image of one Irish republican classifying another Irish republican as a ‘traitor’ demonstrates the gulf that is opening up within republicanism. Sinn Fein urging their supporters to co-operate with the police as they seek to bring the criminals responsible for these recent murders to justice is entirely appropriate, such co-

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operation has been long overdue. However, whilst we have words, there are many in the community who will only believe these words when they are backed up by action and we see convictions in our courtrooms.

The fact that Sinn Fein has moved to this point is a testament to the consistent and determined efforts of our Party who alone amongst Northern Ireland's parties, made support for the police and the rule of law a necessary condition for entry into government. The UUP, who now seek to talk tough over policing and justice issues, never demanded that Sinn Fein had to support the police and the rule of law. They had written off such demands as unachievable.

By standing firm, the DUP has moved Sinn Fein onto ground they never expected to occupy. As a result of our strong stance and efforts, all parties in the Assembly now support policing and the rule of law. This move to normality is positive but is as it should always have been.

The current crop of terrorists will not win. Democracy will endure and terrorism will be defeated."

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