Thursday 30 October 2008

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ROBINSON URGES PRIME MINISTER TO SUPPORT TROOPS' PARADE

During Prime Minister's Question Time, the DUP Leader Peter Robinson MP MLA called on Gordon Brown to join with him in supporting the Armed Forces' Homecoming Parade in Belfast on Sunday and also asked the Prime Minister to urge certain elements not to drag Northern Ireland back to the bad old days. The Prime Minister agreed with the DUP Leader's comments that our troops deserve the support of the community and the parade should be an opportunity for families to show their support for the Armed Forces. Speaking from Westminster the DUP Leader said,
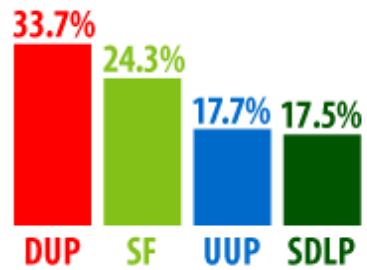
"I welcome the Prime Minister's support for the homecoming parade where our troops will be honoured for the brave manner in which they carried out their duties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is sad that some have tried to make the parade an orange or green issue. It is not. These soldiers are drawn from right across the community.

DUP: *Leading for Ulster*

33.7% 24.3% 17.7% 17.5%

DUP SF UUP SDLP

2005 *Westminster Results*

Sinn Fein's preposterous decision to organise a counter parade and protest only serves to heighten tensions across Northern Ireland. It seems that some people want to drag us back to the bad old days.

I had the privilege of visiting our troops in Afghanistan and witnessing the sterling work which they were involved in, both in terms of reconstruction work and also in mentoring the Afghan army.

I trust that on Sunday everyone will give due respect for the role that has been played by our brave troops particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan."

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