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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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DUP NEWS

Latest News:

First Minister responds to Eames-Bradley recommendations

The DUP Leader Rt. Hon. Peter Robinson MP MLA has responded to reports about what is contained in the Eames-Bradley recommendations by saying,

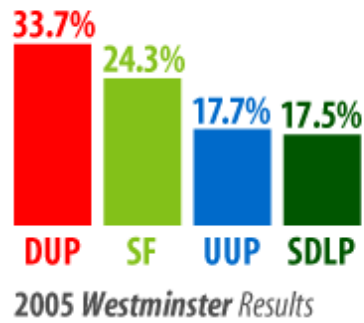


“As yet, I have not seen a copy of the Group’s recommendations but media reports on the issue are both disappointing and disturbing.

Dealing with the legacy of the past is a monumental task. It must be handled with sensitivity and due care for the needs of innocent victims with the maintenance of justice at its core. We will not allow any whitewashing of the past in order to absolve those guilty of heinous acts carried out against innocent people.

This Eames-Bradley Consultative Group on The Past was given a remit to engage with the people of Northern Ireland and make recommendations “on how Northern Ireland society can best approach the legacy of the events of the past 40 years”. However, the reported proposals do not represent an approach which would be in any way acceptable to the Democratic Unionist Party and the people we represent.

ELECTION RESULTS:

DUP: Leading for Ulster

The DUP has consistently opposed any equation between the perpetrator of crimes during the Troubles and the innocent victim. There can be no equation. Terrorists died carrying out their evil and wicked deeds while innocent men, women and children were wiped out by merciless gangsters. We will not give our support to any proposal which would blur the line between the terrorist and the innocent victim nor will we accept or endorse the work of any process which would seek to absolve murderers and criminals of their guilt.

It is regrettable that as a government Minister with responsibilities for these areas I am learning about the Group's proposals through the media. The briefing of the media before politicians has always been a trademark of the Group. Given that the Group's role is to garner consensus on dealing with the past such an approach is very foolish.

This process has been a waste of time. The Group was urged by the DUP to recognise that Northern Ireland needed an innovative approach to deal with the past not an imitation process from other conflicts. The Group has failed in that regard. We will be ensuring that the Government does not insult the innocent victims of terrorism by giving any weight to these offensive recommendations.

I have no doubt that many innocent victims will feel betrayed!"

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