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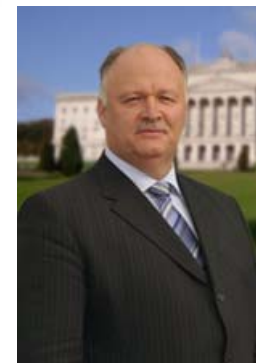
Upper Bann MP David Simpson has issued a call for the Eames/Bradley Group to tell the general public which of its members advocated and supported the proposal to pay £12,000 to relatives of those who died in the Troubles regardless of whether the individual was a perpetrator or a victim. Speaking after Lord Eames told the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee that the Consultative Group on the Past had been divided over the proposal David Simpson said:

"We now know from the direct evidence given by Lord Eames to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee that the Consultative Group was divided over the suggestion to create a moral parity between terrorists and those whom they terrorised through the £12,000 pay-off proposal. That means that there were people on the Eames/Bradley Group who opposed this insulting proposition. Conversely, it also means that there were those who used their membership of this group to push for just such a suggestion and who acted as advocates for it.

Given the admission by the co-chairman of the divisions within the Consultative Group over this issue, it is now only but right that we should be told who it was who were prepared to use their membership of that Group to sanitise the immoral actions of terrorist criminals in the way that this proposal so publicly did.

We also have a right to know the way in which that persuasion was carried out within the Consultative Group. For instance, did any member or members of the group indicate that without such elevation of sectarian murder they would not agree the contents of the Group's report? The public has a right to be told just exactly who was driving this proposal forward within the Consultative Group."

Ald. David Simpson MP MLA



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