

Monday 17 December 2007 "Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from the DUP"

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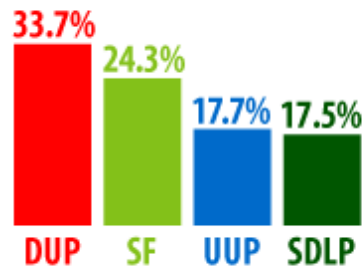
WILSON RAISES LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

In a debate on the Business of the House, held yesterday at Westminster, DUP MP for East Antrim Sammy Wilson raised the issue of Libyan support for terrorism in Northern Ireland during the 1980s. The MP was assured by the Leader of the House, Harriet Harman that the matter would be raised with the Foreign Secretary, David Milliband and the Secretary of State Shaun Woodward and a written answer detailing what plans the government has for dealing with the issue would be placed in the House of Commons Library. Speaking in the debate, Mr. Wilson said:



"During the 1980s, the Libyan Government brought hundreds of tons of guns and explosives into Northern Ireland to help the IRA. As a result, hundreds of people were killed, thousands were maimed, and businesses worth millions of pounds were

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destroyed. Many of the victims groups have been demanding that the Government seek compensation from the Libyan Government, just as compensation was sought for the victims of the destruction of the Pan Am flight over Lockerbie.

This week the groups were informed that the Government did not intend to pursue the case. Will the Leader of the House find time to bring the Foreign Secretary along to make a statement explaining why victims of Libyan-sponsored terrorism in Northern Ireland are being treated differently from victims of the same state in Lockerbie?"

After the debate, Mr. Wilson said:

"I was pleased with the response of the Leader of the House that the matter would be raised with the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. People have a right to know why the government seems to be operating such a disgraceful double-standard over Libyan involvement in terrorist acts against British subjects in Northern Ireland.

If the government saw the need, rightly in my view, to pursue the Libyan regime for compensation for the victims of the bombing Pan Am Flight 103, then what possible excuse can there be for not pursuing the same regime for its complicity in terrorist acts in Northern Ireland? Our government has a moral duty to stand up for the innocent victims of Libyan-sponsored terrorism, by vigorously pursuing those who financed and armed the IRA. Whilst it may not be in keeping with the on-going rapprochement between Ghadaffi and the West, it is the right and proper thing to do."



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