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29th January 2007

SDLP MEET WITH MCCORD ON COLLUSION REPORT

Commenting after a meeting with Raymond McCord Senior today in Parliament Buildings Stormont SDLP Policing Spokesperson Alex Attwood

“Following a request from Raymond McCord Senior the SDLP met with him. The SDLP also arranged a meeting between Raymond, the SDLP the Alliance Party and Sinn Fein.

“It was very important that on a day when unionism blocked a debate on the past and on collusion, that the SDLP and other Assembly parties acknowledged the strength and dignity of Raymond McCord and his family. The SDLP meeting with Raymond McCord attended by Mark Durkan MP MLA, Alasdair McDonnell MP MLA, Dominic Bradley MLA, and Dolores Kelly MLA considered how things should now go forward.

“The SDLP believes that arising from the McCord report a number of initiatives are required, including new funding to enable the PSNI and HET to take forward the murder and other criminal investigations, that any attempt by elements in the NIO to close down the work of the Police Ombudsman on addressing the past must be resisted, and that urgent decisions are required on recovering the truth of the past and calling to account all those, including illegal organisations to account for their actions.

“The McCord report should be an impetus both to probe into and to expose the truth of what state and paramilitary organisations did during the years of conflict and create means to heal the hurts of the past and move forward, as Mark Durkan says, on an ethical basis. That is the way to go.”

ENDS

29/01/07