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McDONNELL: PERSONAL ATTACKS ON EAMES/BRADLEY WILL NOT HELP VICTIMS

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SDLP Deputy Leader and South Belfast MP Dr Alasdair McDonnell said today how he felt to the need to withdraw from yesterday’s Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee had the personal attacks on the honour and integrity of the authors of the Consultative Group on the Past report continued.

Dr McDonnell said: “Yesterday in Westminster the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee heard evidence from Lord Eames and Denis Bradley following the report from their Consultative Group on the Past.

“The SDLP believe the issue of victims is one of immense importance. However, the personal abuse heaped upon the authors was nothing short of a disgrace.

“As a result I felt at one stage I could not be part of the proceedings which seemed intent in turning what should have been a constructive and considered debate into a DUP-led witch hunt.

“The Eames/Bradley report contained many worthwhile proposals and their efforts should of course be recognised.

“The SDLP has consistently stated that the Eames/Bradley report must be judged against moral and ethical standards.

“Above all we need a victim-centred approach, which addresses victims’ needs in terms of truth, recognition and remembrance, not petty political manoeuvring or name calling.”

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