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## Gerry Adams raises McCord collusion report with British government

Published: 22 January, 2007

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams and Chief Negotiator Martin McGuinness this afternoon held an urgent meeting with the British Secretary of State Peter Hain.

Speaking before the meeting Mr. Adams said: "We met the British secretary of State to discuss with him the issues raised by the publication of the Ombudsman's report this morning. We wanted to establish what the British government is going to do in relation to the demands of bereaved families."

Commenting on the O Loan report Mr. Adams said:

"The Ombudsman's report confirms what the families of the hundreds bereaved by collusion between British state forces and unionist death squads have been saying for years.

"This report is only the tip of the iceberg. It is clear from the seniority of those involved within the old RUC who were involved in this investigation that collusion was a matter of political and administrative practice which existed at all levels of the RUC and British government.

"The O'Loan report deals with the impact of collusion in a relatively small area and over a relatively short period of time. The fact is that collusion effected every part of the north and cost lives in the 26 counties. It was the application of brutal state terror against the nationalist and republican section of our people and it also led, as in the case of Raymond McCord Jnr, to the killing of unionist people.

"In recent years Sinn Féin has negotiated significant accountability mechanisms within policing. On Sunday we will discuss a leadership motion arguing that Sinn Féin should move into the policing arrangements in order to use these mechanisms to hold policing to account. We need to ensure that no police officer is ever again able to abuse their position as was done in the past.

"Clearly some of those involved in collusion are still in policing. Sinn Féin is determined to drum these human rights abusers out of policing

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and we are committed to supporting bereaved relatives in their ongoing search for truth

"The role of former Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan is now also in the spotlight as is the failure of the DPP to take action against identified RUC members and others who were involved in collusion.

"The Ombudsman report only scraps the surface of collusion. There are hundreds and hundreds of families who want the truth. I would urge any family effected to speak to the Ombudsman's office and seek similar investigations into their cases.

"Sinn Féin has briefed successive Irish governments of these serious issues for decades now. Martin McGuinness is seeking an urgent meeting with the Irish government to discuss the implications of this report. The Irish government has a responsibility to defend the rights of Irish citizens. This means ensuring that there is no place in policing institutions for those whop orchestrated the policy of collusion." ENDS

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