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Dáil should hold special sitting to debate collusion – Ó Caoláin

Published: 4 April, 2007

Responding to the publication of the McEntee report Sinn Féin Dáil leader Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD has called on the Taoiseach to recall the Dáil during the Easter recess to allow time for a full and open debate on collusion.

Speaking today Deputy Ó Caoláin said, "This report exposes a massive failure on the part of the Gardaí to pursue the investigation of the Dublin and Monaghan Bombings. The only logical explanation for what took place is a cover up of collusion. Gross incompetence is not enough to explain the failure to investigate and the apparent destruction of records. The report again exposes the failure of the British authorities to cooperate with the commission established by the Oireachtas.

"The Government must now follow through with their commitment to have a full debate on collusion in the Dáil. This debate must be full and open and on the whole issue of collusion and not limited to Dublin/Monaghan alone.

"To facilitate this I am calling on the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern to recall the Dáil during the Easter Holidays. The Dáil is scheduled to rise for two weeks and there is speculation that it will only return for two days before the Taoiseach dissolves this Dáil ahead of the general election. This would not leave enough time for a proper and full debate on collusion and that is why I am calling for a sitting during the Easter Holidays.

"Earlier this month Sinn Féin published a Dáil motion on collusion that was drafted in consultation with groups such as The Pat Finucane Centre, The Justice for Eddie Fullerton Campaign, Justice for the Forgotten and Relatives for Justice. We feel this motion should form the basis for the debate in Leinster House as, if passed, this motion would ensure that follow up actions take place.

"Our motion calls on the Government to demand an inter-governmental conference with the British Government specifically dealing with the issue of collusion and truth

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recovery and calls for the establishment of full, public, independent, judicial inquiries into murders in this state where collusion is reasonably suspected.

"The bottom line is that citizens in this state have been murdered by British surrogates and that puts responsibilities on this Dáil to have a full and open debate on collusion and on the Taoiseach to demand British cooperation in collusion inquiries. Following this evening's long awaited publishing of the McEntee report it is now time for all of this to happen." ENDS

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