



Ulster Unionist Party  
for all of us

3rd November 2008

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**Regret That RAF Flypast Cancelled**

Ulster Unionist deputy Leader Danny



Kennedy MLA, has outlined his disappointment and regret that Major Brown the General Officer Commanding for Northern Ireland has felt the need to cancel an RAF flypast to commemorate the safe return of service personnel for Sunday's Homecoming Parade.

In a statement Mr. Kennedy said:

"Whilst recognising that this was a decision for the GOC to make I am deeply disappointed that he has decided to cancel the RAF flyby. It has potentially undermined the morale of the troops and significantly taken away from the parade. This decision is pandering to wider political elements and this is deeply regrettable - I believe this decision was made because of the danger of civil unrest due to Sinn Fein's protest - most people will see this whole affair as a cynical calculation by Sinn Fein, and yet again the reasonable middle ground has moved due to more extreme elements".

"Whilst I cautiously welcome the news that Sinn Fein has decided to move its protest, and recognise their right to protest, some people will never accept British identity no matter what, so it is deeply regrettable that changes to the parade have taken place".

"However, I would still encourage people to come out and support the safe return of our service personnel in a respectful and dignified manner that is the norm in other parts of the United Kingdom".

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