



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### IRA terrorism “alive and well”



Police officer with part of the IRA arms find

**An arms cache, a mixture of firearms, ammunition and bomb-making equipment and components, found in Belfast, has been linked to Sinn Fein/IRA. Three men interviewed by the police over the discovery of the weapons in Essex Street in the lower Ormeau Road area of south Belfast, have links to Provisional IRA, the terrorist wing of the Sinn Fein republican movement. The find is “potentially a very significant development”, Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble has said. Mr. Nigel Dodds, MP for North Belfast, said that it was evidence of continuing IRA activity and said it proved the IRA’s ceasefire was “bogus”.**

A 42-year-old man and a 33-year-old man were expected to appear at Belfast Magistrates’ Court, charged with arms and explosives offences in relation to the find. Following the find, Mr Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist party, called upon the Sinn Fein leadership for answers to serious questions. “What is going on? What are you up to? You tell us you want to pursue peace and politics so why is this happening?”

Speaking in Dublin, Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Paul Murphy said he wanted to see the police reports on the seizure. “But we want a decommissioning of weapons, we want an end to paramilitary activity, we want an act of completion on the part of the IRA,” he said. British government ministers have been making bland and meaningless statements such as this in the wake of IRA terrorist activity for years.

Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, said he did not believe the seizure would set the political process back. He said people should “not get into a tizzy” over the find and said he did not know if it was linked to the IRA. “There are obviously arms dumps out there. That the arms aren’t being used I think is a significant factor.”

Sadly, Adams will be permitted to get away with such dismissive responses by both the British government and by his former coalition unionist politicians led by David Trimble. Enough is never enough as far as these Trimblites are concerned. They will huff and puff and sulk in a corner for a while but, under pressure from the desire for public office and a little arm-twisting from Tony Blair and Berie Ahern, they will return to the political game and carry on delivering the country into the hands of murderers and gangsters.