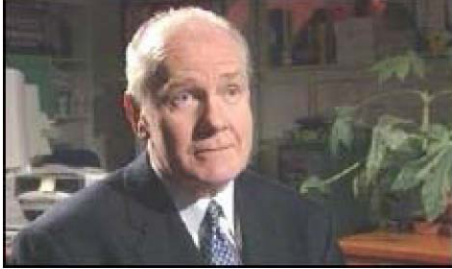


The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Roman Catholic appointed as Northern Ireland Supremo



Dr. John Reid MP

Dr John Reid, a Roman Catholic, has taken on the most challenging job of his political career, that of Northern Ireland Secretary. He is the MP for Hamilton North, in Scotland. He was in the frontline of defence to shield the government when it became clear that former Northern Ireland secretary Peter Mandelson was about to go. Dr Reid will be the first Roman Catholic to take on the post of Northern Ireland secretary. For the 53-year-old it is his fourth government job in as many years. He, clearly, in the words of the well known Ulster saying, is one of the same sow's litter as that from which Mandelson came. Dr Reid was embroiled in an embarrassing episode involving his lobbyist son, Kevin Reid, who was filmed during an undercover operation by The Observer newspaper saying he knew the Scottish secretary "very, very well he is my father." Personal tragedy affected his life in 1998 when his wife Cathy died suddenly from a heart attack. The couple met at a school party while both were still teenagers and went on to have two sons. Two years after the death of his wife he started a relationship with his present "partner", film-maker Karine Addler. At the end of 1999, Dr Reid was voted "Scotland's Champion Smoker" by the campaign group Freedom to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (Forest).