



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Dublin documents show that IRA are training and re-arming



Senior Irish government officials are carrying out a high-level investigation into the disclosure of a sensitive document on official Dublin thinking about political developments in Northern Ireland. The confidential paper was left in a room used by journalists after a meeting of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference in Dublin.

Details of the embarrassing accidental leak emerged as political parties backing the Good Friday Agreement on Northern Ireland prepared for round-table talks in Belfast. The document, prepared for study by Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowen, confirmed that the IRA was still active but maintained that the organisation was recruiting and gathering intelligence for defensive purposes only, and affirmed Dublin's belief that the republican movement's leadership is fully committed to the peace process.

Democratic Unionist MP Gregory Campbell challenged rival unionists to explain why they engaged in talks with Sinn Fein following the leak of an alleged Irish government document which claimed the Provisional IRA remained active. The East Londonderry MP said: "It would appear that an Irish government document is saying that the Provos are still acquiring weapons - something many of us have been saying for some time. Obviously this casts a huge question mark over the discussions involving Sinn Fein. It has very serious implications for any discussions and in particular for the Ulster Unionist party who have been negotiating with the political wing of the IRA at a time when they have been rearming."