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THE SHAME OF THE DUP STANCE ON MURDER

Truth and righteousness are deemed less important than political expediency

When the world of journalism noted and criticised the reluctant manner in which Sinn Fein uttered anything resembling a condemnation of the murder of the two soldiers at the entrance to the army barracks in Antrim on the evening of Saturday 7th March, it also noted the absence of any criticism of the Sinn Fein stance by its partner in government in Northern Ireland, the Democratic Unionist Party.

Here is what appeared on the "Belfast Telegraph" website on March 10th:

"The striking thing is that the Sinn Fein response attracted so much criticism, but that it has not been attacked by the Democratic Unionist Party, who are their partners in government, by the British Government, or by the police.

All of these appear to take the view that Sinn Fein has to tread carefully in the republican underworld. The most immediately important of these elements is the DUP and its leader and First Minister, Peter Robinson.

The DUP has often in the past savaged Sinn Fein for approving of republican violence against the security forces, and it might have done so again. Instead Mr Robinson has focused on the Real IRA, who carried out the attack, and taken the line that this is not a time to seek party political advantage.

His stance has caused much relief in London and Dublin, since there were anxieties that the killings might lead to political recriminations, with consequent damage to the peace process."

The DUP's stance is one of base time-serving expediency. It is far removed from the origins of the party's objectives when formed some 40 years ago. It has abandoned principle and adopted selfish political self-preservation. It first set its foot on that road when it responded to the Westminster government's ultimatum in the Autumn of 2006 that if a deal was not done with Sinn Fein Stormont would be closed and with it would end the salaries, allowances and various other 'perks' much enjoyed by the DUP elected members of the Assembly. Infamously, the DUP chose to enter a power-sharing arrangement with the murderous Sinn Fein/IRA organisation, taking them into government and into the joint office of First and Deputy First Minister. Martin McGuinness, self-confessed IRA leader and operative, as a result of the DUP's decision now rules Northern Ireland in conjunction with Mr. Peter Robinson, the leader of the DUP. Truth and righteousness were abandoned for political power and temporal glory.

The blindness that descended upon the DUP was very evident in the statement issued by Peter Robinson after the Antrim murders. He and party colleague Rev William McCrea are credited by the "Irish Times" with saying: "There's nothing but murder in the hearts of these people, but one thing I can guarantee: they will not defeat us, they will not win, but we will see them defeated."



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That being so, we can expect the leaders of the Real IRA to be taken into government soon since that is how the DUP defeated Sinn Fein/IRA !!

Peter Robinson is also reported on the website of the "Belfast Newsletter" as saying: "These murders were a futile act by those who command no public support and have no prospect of success in their campaign. It will not succeed."

He should have a long look at the man who shares his office and his authority of leadership, Martin McGuinness. MCGuinness led the IRA in Londonderry for many years when many soldiers, policemen and civilians, both Roman Catholic and Protestant were brutally murdered at his command as IRA leader.

For such activities, the British Government with the aid of the Democratic Unionist Party, rewarded him with the joint leadership of our country.

Assurances that the RIRA will not succeed from the lips of Peter Robinson ring hypocritically hollow indeed.

Ivan Foster
March 10th 2009.