



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

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“The bombs and guns have gone - or have they?”



Harold Good and Alex Reid

The news that the IRA have “decommissioned” their weaponry should make the unionists of Northern Ireland happy. However, there are no “Victory in Europe”, 1945-style celebrations breaking out in Ulster. The reason is simple. None but an obscure Canadian retired army general, John de Chastelain, a Roman Catholic priest, Alex Reid and an ecumenical Methodist, Harold Good - it is unclear who appointed these clerics - witnessed this event. They could but report what the IRA had told them to report — there are no more IRA weapons!! Unionist leaders had demanded some video or pictorial evidence of the event. They had also asked for a Protestant minister of their choice to be a witness. All such requests were refused. Instead we have three individuals reporting to the world what the IRA told them. The British government, in continuation of its boot-licking policy toward the murderous IRA, refused such requests lest it offend Adams and McGuinness!

Having been subjected to 30 years of falsehoods and terror from the IRA (we speak only of recent history), it is more than a little difficult to accept the word of unrepentant liars. Moreover, the significance of getting rid of terrorist weaponry is significantly diminished by the fact that the terrorist group remains. The IRA has not gone away and has publicly stated it will not go away! Disarming a terror group entails the dismantling of the organisation as well as its weapons. Instead, the British government plans to put IRA murderers into government in Northern Ireland.

Blair and Co. can wax euphoric in the wake of this “event” for the simple reason that their future is not at stake. They have “made a covenant with death, and with hell” they are “at agreement.”

Blair cares only for the safety of his capital, London, and so he will make peace with the IRA on their terms in order to secure that peace.

As far as Mr. Blair is concerned, we in Ulster can sink or swim — preferably sink!

This has been the reality of British policies in Northern Ireland for quite some time. Unionists have repeatedly said that such is the case. Now, it appears that even Roman Catholic politicians, such as Alasdair McDonnell MP, of the SDLP (long a mocker of Unionist concerns), are waking up to the fact that it is not just unionists whose views don't count with Blair but all “non-IRA” views are treated in this manner. He is reported in a TV programme on the IRA's bank robbing activities as saying, “The real bottom line is that the Prime Minister was prepared to sacrifice Northern Ireland. It didn't matter much what sort of circumstances the rest of us had to live in here, as long as there weren't bombs going off in London.”

Welcome, belatedly, to the real world of Ulster politics, Mr. McDonnell.