



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The RUC betrayed - an omen for the future?



The lynch-pin of Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Peter Mandelson's statement to the House of Commons on the implication of the Patten Report on the Reform of Northern Ireland's police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was the sentiment: "In a perfect world, I too would have kept the name of the RUC." "It is a proud name. It represents a very fine tradition. It is rightly honoured by the whole of the RUC family, but I am afraid that the name is not

owned by both communities in Northern Ireland."

We are expected to believe that the new "Northern Ireland Police Service" will be accepted by republicans. That acceptance is supposed to make this further concession to terrorism palatable. But no such acceptance and support will be forthcoming. It just cannot happen. For republicans to support any British police force is to deny their republicanism.

This is the British government once again seeking to put out a fire by dousing it in petrol! Such a concession, coming as it does in the wake of a seemingly endless train of concessions, will promote only a further demand for more, just as all the other appeasements have done. We are ruled by a government that is itself ruled by a fear of the return of IRA terror to the British mainland. Therefore, Sinn Fein will have its every demand granted.

People in Ulster are beginning to see the real price of the "Peace Agreement" that David Trimble signed back last spring. The reform of the RUC was part of that evil deal. A protest by women on the loyalist Shankill Road in Belfast, against the destruction of the RUC, laid the blame at Trimble's feet. Group spokesman Ena Manion said the protest had been organised in opposition to the implementation of the Patten report, which she claimed was "selling the RUC down the river".

Mrs Manion said the women were opposed to any reform of the RUC and she accused the Ulster Unionist Party of capitulating to nationalist demands. "I lay the blame for this on the Unionist Party because they signed up to the Patten report," Mrs Manion said. "We have the full support of everyone on the Shankill Road, because we all believe that the government is dancing to Sinn Fein's tune," she said. And dance to that tune Prime Minister, Tony Blair, will continue to do until we have all been danced into a united Ireland.

Ulster Protestants seem as blind as ever to this plain fact for they have been deceived by their church leaders and ecumenical politicians. Not until they throw off the yoke of ecumenical deception and lies, will they ever be able to see the stark truth which is staring them in the face.

David Trimble is preparing to wriggle out of his commitment, given to his party, to resign as Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Assembly Executive, should the IRA fail to disarm before mid-February. He recently went to Dublin to try and obtain support from the government there, to ensure that the IRA gives some token of disarming before the Ulster



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Unionist Party Council on February 12th. He will find his allies in Dublin to be a "broken stick" indeed! Trimble promised to quit his post along with his fellow unionists who hold ministerial positions, when the Council last met. It was this promise which swung the majority of unionist delegates behind the arrangements for the new Executive, back in December, at a time when most unionists were more than a little sceptical, because of the concessions to republicans those arrangements entailed.

In the wake of the announcement of the disbanding of the RUC, the government has prepared once again to buy its way out of difficulty. Hundreds of millions will be paid out to serving policemen and their families. This disclosure followed on the heels of the awarding of the George Cross, the highest peace-time medal that can be awarded in United Kingdom, to the RUC as a body. Most RUC personnel privately despised the award as a cynical exercise to buy their support. It indeed proved to be the sweetener for the bitter pill of disbandment!

Undoubtedly, what has happened to the RUC will eventually happen to Northern Ireland generally. It will be handed over to the Irish Republic. That our country, so blessed and privileged over the centuries, should come to this is the direct consequence of a departure from God. Within living memory, Ulster has turned its back very deliberately upon the gospel, beloved of our fathers, and is now paying the price.

When will the people see that such is the cause of our present dilemma? More importantly, when will Christians recognise that such is the case?

Never were there greater spiritual slackness and prayerlessness. Never was there more evidence of a drift toward worldliness and backsliding. Indeed, the activities abhorred by believers, of a generation ago, are now openly engaged in by Christians of high standing in God's work, even office bearers and what is even more distressing, ministers of the gospel who took vows to oppose the pleasure crazes of this age are content to support young people aping the world and sometimes even give a lead in such activities.

All this is happening under the shadow of God's judgment on our land. Ought there not to be humility and repentance? Ought there not to be a seeking of the Lord for mercy? What a solemn and applicable word is found in Isaiah. *And in that day did the Lord GOD of hosts call to weeping, and to mourning, and to baldness, and to girding with sackcloth: and behold joy and gladness, slaying oxen, and killing sheep, eating flesh, and drinking wine: let us eat and drink; for to morrow we shall die. And it was revealed in mine ears by the LORD of hosts, Surely this iniquity shall not be purged from you till ye die, saith the Lord GOD of hosts*, Isaiah 22:12-14.

Just which activity best characterises the activities of the average Christian today? Is it the weeping and mourning or is it the feasting and carousing?

The outcome of such defiance of God's will is terrifying and heart-breaking.