



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Unwelcome support for St Andrews Agreement camp



Rev Harold Good (left) and RC priest,  
Alec Reid

**“Elements of bigotry” in the DUP are blocking progress, says Rev Harold Good, the Methodist cleric, who along with Roman Catholic priest, Alec Reid witnessed last year’s IRA decommissioning.**

He claimed that the DUP’s opposition to sharing power with Sinn Fein is partly driven by “elements of bigotry”, who do not want to compromise with republicans under any circumstances.

Rev Harold Good, who is a former president of the Methodist Church, was one of two independent clergy witnesses, approved to witness IRA decommissioning in the absence of Ian Paisley’s demand for the act to be photographed in September 2005.

#### Rejected

Subsequently, the DUP, who did not accept that full decommissioning took place, questioned Good’s integrity. “There are real and imaginary causes of fear and they get confused.”

“There would be a mix [within the DUP] of those who cannot bring themselves to accept republicans as equal partners, and others have suffered at their hands.”

“We have all had an overdose of bigotry, and they need to move on with it.”

Rev Good said that, while he understood some of the concerns of anti-agreement DUP members, “there are those who cannot bring themselves to accept republicans as equal partners”.

The charge of “bigotry” has become an honourable epithet for Free Presbyterians. It was the favourite term of abuse which sprang readily to the lips of those who hated the witness of Bible Christianity and its protest against the sell-out of ecumenical religion and politics since the earliest days of our church.

It reached a peak in the years of Terence O’Neill and those political and religious leaders who sought to promote his views and notions.

Now to hear it used by an ecumenist in support of the plans of the pro-St Andrews Agreement lobby against those, who would seek to maintain the position espoused by the DUP but a few short months ago, is ironic indeed.

It must surely witness to those who are pushing for a coalition with Sinn Fein/IRA that their position has changed when those who used to denounce them are cheering them on and directing their malevolence against their former colleagues.