



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Royal Irish Regiment sacrificed



The Royal Irish Regiment crest

David Trimble is bitterly angry at the news that the Army is to disband the RIR, formerly the Ulster Defence Regiment. The news proves all his critics were correct in predicting the move as part of the ongoing London/Dublin appeasement of Sinn Fein/IRA.

The British and Irish Prime Ministers' joint declaration, released in April, planned an ultimate reduction of troops in Northern Ireland to 5,000. However, this reduction was supposedly on the condition that the IRA made it clear that its war was over and made "acts of completion" to decommission its weapons. It seems clear that, in fact, it was the IRA that won the argument and forced the British government to announce the disbandment of the RIR. David Trimble faces a major rebellion in his party with MP, Jeffrey Donaldson, urging party delegates to reject the joint declaration because it is the only way to stop the disbandment of the Royal Irish Regiment. David Trimble has said he would "not lift a finger" over the British and Irish Governments' joint declaration until he received an assurance on the future of the Royal Irish Regiment. He claims that he was told by the PM that the 3,000-plus members of the regiment based in Northern Ireland would be retained in addition to the 5,000 soldiers envisaged after acts of completion by the IRA.