



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### IRA still has weapons!



**IRA members still have weapons, the 10th Independent Monitoring Commission report has reiterated.**

The IMC has stood by its February assessment that the IRA still has arms.

However, overall the report gives the IRA an improving bill of health, but with serious concerns remaining.

Government sources have been accentuating the positive in the report.

But the DUP's Nigel Dodds said any attempt to "spin" the contents would be resisted, and while the IMC was an important barometer of the situation, unionists would make up their own minds on the IRA's true intentions.

The murder of Denis Donaldson fell outside the timeframe of this report, but key points include:

- \* some IRA members have kept arms ;
- \* the IRA is still using criminal gains for "strategic purposes", including buying property and for political means;
- \* the IRA may still be involved in exiling people, as highlighted by one particular incident in west Belfast recently.

### **Murder has not gone away**

The retention of arms indicates that the intent to use them is still there. The IRA remains as an armed and murderous organisation inextricably linked to Sinn Fein — a party which the British government would force in as a partner in government upon the Ulster people. The recent disclosures of corruption within Blair's party are insignificant in comparison to this!