



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Trimble pays homage to the Pope



Just when most true Protestants believed that David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, could stoop no lower in his career of selling out the land of his birth and the cause of his Protestant forefathers, he pays a curtsey call on the Pope, the man seen as an antichrist according to the sixteenth century Reformation leaders.

The unprecedented visit by Mr Trimble came as negotiations stalled on the issue of arms decommissioning. Mr Trimble, elected as Northern Ireland's first minister, is yet to take up his powers because of the on-going row over when terrorists should start to give up their weapons.

Mr. Trimble told the press that in the course of the Rome meeting there would be a courtesy call by the participants on "His Holiness" Pope John Paul II. The use of such a title by the Pope is considered a blasphemy since it is very closely linked with the titles of God.

Back in Northern Ireland, there was unionist fury at the meeting. Democratic Unionist leader, Rev Ian Paisley rejected the suggestion that the meeting was a welcome exercise in bridge building. "I think that by going to see the Pope, Mr Trimble automatically gives credence to what the Pope claims to be - and he claims to be the sole representative of Christ on Earth." "Anyone who goes and gives credence to a person who makes such a claim must bear the responsibility." "I'm making a simple point that as far as those who believe the Bible are concerned, we reject the claims of the Pope. I'm a Reformation Protestant and I have no apologies for my stand. If Mr Trimble wants to give credence to the Pope's claim and accept that, that's his business."

Following the visit, loyalists in Portadown, the heart of Mr Trimble's constituency, said the visit proved he could no longer claim to represent them. "It's ironic to think he can go and meet the Pope but he can't come near his own constituency without an armed guard," said Portadown Orangeman David Jones. "People here no longer feel he represents them or loyalism in any way. I think people would be only too glad if he went over and stayed with the Pope."