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Sabotaging the truth

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By Staff reporter

It was a man of the cloth, the late Fr. Denis Faul who stated that he could verify that the British never told the truth about a single incident in all the years of their involvement in Ireland.

This week other men of the cloth were in England meeting the security services, among them MI5. Denis Bradley and Lord Robin Eames, the front runners in the group set up by the British Government to examine how to deal with the past met with the secret intelligence arm of the British, in the hope that they would reveal details of their sordid activities in Ireland, over the past thirty odd years.

MI5 have been the driving engine of Britain's 'dirty war' in Ireland, North and South and they are still involved in the sordid operations of running large numbers of paid agents and informers, aside from their efforts to subvert any moves towards unity and independence that does not promote British political interests on this island.

The Consultative Group perhaps on a wing and a prayer hoped that the Director General of MI5 would discuss how much it was prepared to reveal. Wouldn't you imagine that they would demand that such a group with a history of murder, kidnapping, framing, and all the unsavoury activities it has been involved in, would reveal the truth and nothing but the truth.

Its not that Eames and Bradley don't know who they are dealing with. After all they have had access to the Stephens files, which they said revealed 'disquieting and shocking evidence of widespread collusion between the British State and loyalists paramilitaries.' Even that information came across in the 15 pages of the three thousand that Stephens, Mark 3, was permitted to publish.

So why are they shocked and why has the emphasis by the group moved from its remit of dealing with the past and all groups involved on an equal footing. It seems that they are not seeking the same reciprocal commitments of t

ruth from the British military and intelligence services as they are from the IRA, an organisation that both the British and Irish Government outlawed and hounded over the past thirty years, and tried to criminalise, and which by whatever definition was never regarded as being involved in a war, guerrilla or otherwise.

Surely the emphasis on establishing the truth and dealing with the past has to be first and foremost placed with the British Government who has never seen themselves on an equal footing with other role players in the conflict. One has only to examine the number of times well over twenty when the British Government derogated from the European Court. As far as the British are concerned, truth and truth commissions and dealing with the past may only be relevant in Latin America or Africa dictatorships or totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe, but not the North of Ireland.

The full article contains 486 words and appears in Journal Sunday newspaper. Last Updated: 26 February 2008 12:10 PM Page 1 of 3 Next Page »

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- <u>Coyler's Comment</u>
- Sports Editorial

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- <u>Mary Nelis</u>
- Ellen Unedited
- Kelli's Confab
- Father Michael Canny
- Mhat's this?

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- Sabotaging the truth
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- Time to reclaim our sisterhood
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