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## SDLP ASK IRISH GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE WITH BRITISH ON OMAGH

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Following the Assembly Debate on the Omagh Bomb, the SDLP has written to the Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs requesting that the Irish Government intervenes with Gordon Brown and urge the release of GCHQ/MI5 intelligence.

SDLP MLA Alex Attwood said:

“The MI5 intelligence on the Omagh Bomb should be handed over forthwith to the Omagh families and their lawyers. Gordon Brown should make this happen. Brian Cowan should make sure it happens.

If the Secretary of State believes that “no stone should be left unturned”, then it follows that the GCHQ/MI5 information should be released. There is a risk that the ongoing civil case will conclude without all relevant intelligence being presented. This would be a travesty. Gordon Brown must intervene and direct that GCHQ/MI5 intelligence is handed over. He can make this happen. He should do so.”

“The Irish Taoiseach has also said that “the civil action is the best way to find out what exactly happened in Omagh”. If this is so, then it falls to the Irish Government to insist to Gordon Brown that the GCHQ/MI5 intelligence is handed over.

The civil action must have the maximum help. This means the maximum amount of intelligence. That is why I have written today to the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs urging that the Irish Government should change its current approach and no longer wait for the outcome of London secret review of MI5 Omagh intelligence. Dublin should act quickly. London should respond positively. Anything less is not enough.”

ENDS

16-10-08

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