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ATTWOOD COMMENTS ON MECHANISM FOR DEALING WITH THE PAST

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Commenting upon any new mechanism for dealing with the past SDLP Policing Spokesperson Alex Attwood stated: “The SDLP alone has proposals that can help address issues relating to the past.

The first is that all the parties should agree that victims and survivors of the conflict should work together and independently to develop proposals that deal with the past and addresses the pain that so many carry. Victims and survivors have a personal and moral authority to take these issues forward. The parties and governments should help them do so.

Secondly, any proposals that see the prosecuting authorities or the British Government rely upon ‘public interest’ to allow on the runs not to be prosecuted and those in British army uniform identified in Stevens collusion report also not be prosecuted is unacceptable. Any such proposal would be a reworking of the failed ‘On the Run/State Killers’ proposals of 18 months ago which victims and survivors all but universally opposed.

What this issue confirms is that an inclusive victims and survivors led approach that addresses the past is needed. Any other approach ends up being potentially hurtful, short-term, exclusive and hurtful to many.”

ENDS
12.02.07

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