Victims' payments not ruled out

Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party Sir Reg Empey has voiced his concern following comments from the Secretary of State Shaun Woodward which suggested that the £12,000 payout proposed in the Eames Bradley report may be used in the future.

Commenting on the controversial issue, Sir Reg said; "These comments are worrying as they suggest that the Secretary of State may go back on his word. Once again I will repeat what the Ulster Unionist Party said when the Eames Bradley report was first launched - It is wrong, fundamentally wrong, to equate the victims of terrorism with the terrorists who carried out the attacks. And it is wrong, fundamentally wrong, to offer any sum of money - irrespective of the amount involved - to the families of killers, bombers and torturers. This will not be acceptable at any time."

*When Shaun Woodward made these comments, he also stressed that both communities had endorsed this ugly monetary gesture - I would therefore simply ask - who were they*