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Department of
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Michael McGimpsey
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UUP Washington Delegation



Deputy Leader of the Ulster Unionist Assembly Party and Chair of the Assembly's OFMdfM Committee, Danny Kennedy MLA, and Ulster Unionist Policing Board Member Basil McCrea MLA have represented the Ulster Unionist Party and Northern Ireland in Washington over St Patrick's Day. Both MLAs stressed the importance of the four parties in the Executive working together for Northern Ireland during the visit.

Following his encounter with President Obama, Mr. Kennedy said, "It was a great honour to meet the President of the United States. The Office holds immense respect across the free world, and the long and enduring ties between Northern Ireland and the United States made meeting the President particularly meaningful for me. The new administration was assured that the four parties of the Executive are committed to making devolution work and holding the line against dissident republican terrorism. As an Ulster Unionist, I could not help but feel a sense of pride in my Party's achievement in contributing to this moment - the four parties who are in the Executive standing together in Washington DC on St Patrick's Day, and assuring the President and members of the US Congress and Senate of their commitment to devolved government in Northern Ireland".

Mr Kennedy had several private meetings with members of the Congress on Capitol Hill to brief them on current events and he described these as "very useful".



While in Washington, Mr. McCrea has met with senior police officers, including Assistant Chief of Police Pat Burke of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department. Mr. McCrea said, "In my meetings with leading police commanders in the United States, I have been struck by their deep admiration for the professionalism and courage of the PSNI.

"All expressed sorrow at the murder of Constable Stephen Carroll, and assured the officers of the PSNI of the support of the police family in the United States. One of the great privileges of being a Policing Board member is to act as an ambassador for the PSNI. This has allowed me to tell US elected representatives, policy makers and police officers of the PSNI's dedication and commitment to community service and their vital role in building the new Northern Ireland".

"Amidst the grief and sadness of recent weeks, I left American opinion formers in no doubt that the people of Northern Ireland are proud and fully supportive of their Police Service".

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