



National Committee on American Foreign Policy

Where Leaders Meet

Northern Ireland Peace Initiative

Introduction to the Speech by Peter Robinson, MP by William Flynn

April 5, 2006

National Committee on American Foreign Policy
Peter Robinson, DUP
Luncheon - 35th Floor
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Thank you, President George Schwab. I want to thank you, Peter Robinson, for the very fine presentation you made of the Unionist position in Northern Ireland.

I must tell you, it is our strong conviction that it is your party, the Democratic Unionist Party, that is doing all in its power to see to it that the Assembly and Executive are not restored. Furthermore, the DUP rejects the Good Friday Agreement.

So to put the lack of progress in restoring a democratic government to the Republicans, and to the IRA in particular, is distressing. And to place responsibility with the International Monitoring Commission's report is to me equally distressing. I have had the pleasure of dining with all of the members of the Commission just a few weeks back. They gave what I consider to be one of the most favorable reports on the Republicans that I have thus far encountered. It seemed to me that their gravest problems concerned the activities of the Unionist Paramilitaries, the UDA and the UVF, and their associated groups.

It is my view that the Commission is made up of solid and experienced men. Furthermore, I happen to be one who accepts Prime Minister Blair's right to select a particular group of people to advise him on the situation in the North. Many, as you know, question the existence of the Commission as well as the men who serve on it. I accept them completely and am convinced of their integrity. I fully expect them shortly to conclude that the time has come to establish a devolved government in the North.

I don't have to remind you that three Irish Prime Ministers, Reynolds, Bruton and Ahern fully support this. In addition, two British Prime Ministers, Majors and Blair have supported this all along with two American Presidents, Clinton and Bush.

I could add the names of many U.S. Senators and Congressmen. I am pleased that one distinguished Governor is here in person, Gov. Carey, and he strongly supports the immediate establishment of a devolved democratic government in Northern Ireland.

In short, Peter, as I see it, practically the whole world is in sympathy with the Republican position on this matter.



It has been made clear by the British government that should the parties in the North fail to establish a devolved government by November 24th of this year, the British and Irish governments will take charge and provide for the joint administration of the North.

I urge my friend Peter Robinson, a member of the British Parliament and his lovely wife, who is here with him today, and who is also a Member of Parliament, and also Jeffrey Donaldson, who I am delighted to see here today, to understand our strong feeling that no one wants joint administration.

Peter and Iris forgive me for having taken advantage of my position as Chairman of the National Committee to have had the last word. I'm afraid I may have taken advantage of you.

Again, thank you for coming here to explain the Unionist position on the Northern Ireland peace process.

