

**Brethren again linked to leaflets**

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Despite vowing to stay out of politics, the Exclusive Brethren have been linked to anti-government leaflets similar to the ones that landed them in hot water at the last election.

The latest leaflets describe New Zealand as Helengrad and Prime Minister Helen Clark is accused of leaving the country "dangerously exposed to a terrorist attack" after axing the Skyhawk fighter jets.

The pamphlets also say the nuclear ships ban is ridiculous and call for closer relations with America and tax cuts for all workers.

"We do adhere to freedom of speech in our country. But you have a lot more respect for people if they have the guts to put their names to things. They can't put their name to it I suppose because they know they have absolute untruths in it," Clark says.

ONE News has been told the leaflets were produced by Dynamic Consulting, a group of "concerned New Zealanders who don't want the country to be over-run by people with hidden agendas".

Dynamic Consulting is an unlisted business but ONE News has traced it back to a Wellington Brethren church member, Richard McClean. He would not talk but the church's official spokesman has confirmed that a Brethren member was behind the pamphlets.

"The person involved was a member of the church. It had nothing to do with the church itself," says Tony McCorkell.

The Australian-based spokesman says the leaflet campaign has been stopped because of concerns the church would again be embroiled in a political row.

Seven Exclusive Brethren businessmen were exposed for funding a million dollar anti-government pamphlet drop at the last election.

"Given the criticism the church was receiving collectively for the actions of some of its members over in New Zealand...one of the friends or contacts of the gentlemen distributing those leaflets thought it was probably more wise at this point not to do so," McCorkell says.

And similar flyers could be on the way.

ONE News understands some church members have been instructed to prepare a war-chest to fight next year's election.

But that could prove difficult with Labour planning to change the law to limit anonymous donations and third party election advertising.

Source: One News