

**Irish  
National  
Congress**



**Comhdháil  
Náisiúnta  
na hÉireann**

P.O. Box No. 2814, Dublin 7

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# JOIN THE INC

The Irish National Congress was formed in January 1990 at a public meeting attended by over 500 people. Our initial work involved sponsoring and organising the highly successful events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of 1916 including the parade and pageant which brought tens of thousands of people onto O'Connell Street, Dublin.

Other early projects included supporting local community associations along the border who have been reopening cross-border roads destroyed by the British army and organising the public inquiry into the killing of Fergal Caraher and wounding of Michael Caraher in Cullyhanna, South Armagh on 30 December 1990.

The present priority for the INC is organising a major national campaign in defence of Articles Two and Three. If these articles are to be protected then nationalists throughout Ireland must organise now to prevent a referendum if possible, and to fight it and defeat it if necessary

On a broader level the INC is seeking to bring the widest possible number of people together on a non-party political non-sectarian basis to work for a united Ireland, peace and human rights by peaceful means.

Already people from all political parties and none are working together in branches right across the country. They have proven that people can work together on issues of common concern. Certainly there has never been a greater

need for concerted action by Irish people to promote the demand for Irish unity, peace and justice in our country.

If you agree with our objectives why not join the INC and help with the work. We have branches in many areas and new branches are being formed every month.

Contact Robert Ballagh, Chairperson INC, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7. Tel: 8210493/8202019.



## Defend Articles Two and Three

Removing or changing Articles Two and Three will not bring peace. Amending the articles would send a signal across the world that the Irish people accepted British rule and had abandoned the demand for Irish unity. This would remove all international pressure from the British government.

Changing Articles Two and Three would also remove the right to hold an Irish passport from people in the North of Ireland and would end the constitutional right of the Irish government to intervene in the North on human rights issues.

Until now there has been no attention given to the British claim to the North of Ireland. The British Government of Ire-

land Act (Section 75) claims that "the supreme authority of the parliament of the United Kingdom shall remain unaffected and undiminished over all persons, matters and things in [Northern] Ireland and every part thereof".

This aggressive claim by the British government must be withdrawn if there is to be any prospect of peace.



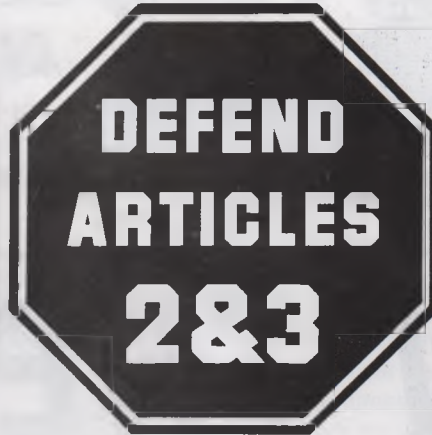
● Declan Bree, Labour TD, speaking at the INC's AGM



# Articles Two And Three



● BERNADETTE McALISKEY



● NORA COMISKEY

## **Twenty-five years on — time for change**

Next August marks the 25th Anniversary of the introduction of British troops onto the streets of the North of Ireland. After 25 years of conflict, human rights abuses, discrimination and economic decline, it is surely time for change — time for new policies to end the conflict and end injustice.

The INC believes that the opportunity should be used to hold the widest possible debate about new opportunities for peace and the policies which are necessary to bring peace and justice. We hope to involve the broadest possible group of people in a series of events culminating in a massive parade and pageant calling for the withdrawal of British troops and the reunification of Ireland.

Anyone who is interested in helping to organise such a programme, is invited to contact Robert Ballagh, Chairperson INC, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7, Tel: 8210493/8202019.

Article Two *"The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland..."*

Article Three *"Pending the reunification of the national territory..." [laws passed by the Dáil will only apply to the 26 Counties.]*

### **We believe they are worth defending**

#### **Changing Articles Two and Three will:**

- Strip people from the North of Ireland of their right to hold an Irish passport;
- End the right of people from the North to represent Ireland in sporting teams and at cultural events;
- Leave the British claim to the North uncontested in law — in effect withdrawing in international law the constitutional demand for Irish unity;
- Remove the constitutional right of the Irish government to intervene on human rights issues in the North;
- Create a danger of increased conflict as northern nationalists would feel abandoned and the British government could claim their record in the North of Ireland had been endorsed by the Irish people;
- Postpone the day of peace and reconciliation by removing international pressure from the British government.

Ná lig daoibh Ailt a Dó agus a Trí athro glac pairt san fheachtas chun iad a chosaint.

## **ACT TODAY**

### **Articles Two and Three — What you can do to help**

- Write to or phone your public representatives telling them to oppose any change in Articles Two and Three;
- With the help of the INC organise a public meeting in your area;
- Form a branch of the INC;
- Send us names and addresses of other people who might be interested or prominent people in your area who might speak out;

- Distribute our leaflets in defence of Articles Two and Three;
- Write letters to local papers;
- Phone in to radio programmes;
- Complain if you feel media coverage is biased or ill-informed;
- Get organisations of which you are a member of to pass motions supporting the retention of Articles Two and Three;
- Have INC speakers invited to address meetings of groups of which you are a member.



# Aims and Objectives

## Freedom

The Irish people have the democratic right to freedom, unity and peace. The INC asserts that right, which is enshrined in the 1916 Proclamation, the Democratic Programme of the First Dáil Eireann, and which is the desire of the majority of the Irish people.

The INC asserts that a declaration of intent by the British to withdraw from Ireland is a prerequisite to the development and establishment of an independent, sovereign nation, itself the basis of Irish democracy. Only this can truly represent the interests of all the Irish people and guarantee their right, through national self-determination, to freedom, unity and peace.

The INC also espouses the democratic right of the people to live and work in our own country, to full equality between men and women and most importantly the right to safeguard the future of our children. We assert the right to full access to our own culture of which the Irish language is central and the culture of other peoples.

## Unity

Partition has distorted the political, economic, social and cultural life of our country and has fostered sectarian divisions among our people. The diversity of tradition, culture and opinion of the Irish people, should be a source of strength but has been instead used to divide us. The INC asserts its abhorrence of sectarianism and believes these divisions have denied the rights of all traditions in Ireland and true democracy. Unity of the Irish people can only come about when Britain ends its interference in Ireland and allows the Irish people to determine their own future.

## Peace

We have the right as a people to live in peace individually, nationally and internationally. True peace will be secured when justice has been achieved, our national democratic rights established and the cultural identities of our people protected.

Peace in Ireland in the international context will only be secured by maintaining a positively neutral position, promoting the demilitarisation and the optimum protection of the environment.

We demand that the British government start the process by declaring their intent to leave us, to build a free, united, peaceful Ireland.

## Do you agree with the aims of the INC?

Would you like to join the INC and contribute to its work?

Can you organise a public meeting to form a Branch

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fee £5 waged/£3 unwaged.

Return to: Irish National Congress, P.O. Box 2814, Dublin 7.

Donations can be sent to: Bank of Ireland, College Green, Dublin 2. Account No. 13733967 or to the Irish National Congress at: PO Box 2814, Dublin 7.

# Cuspóirí

## Saoirse

Tá an ceart daonlathach ag muintir na hEireann Saoirse, Aontacht agus Síocháin a bheith acu.

Dearbhaíonn Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hEireann ag ceart sin atá daingnithe i bhFógra 1916, chomh maith le Clár Daonlathach na Chéad Dála agus atá mar mhian ag tromlach na hEireann.

Dearbhaíonn Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hEireann go bhfuil aisthairraingt Rialtas Shasna as Eirinn mar bhunriachtanas do fhorbairt agus do bhunú náisiún féinrialta daonlathach. Soe amháin a chinnteoidh cearta mhuintir na hEireann agus a bheas mar bharántas dóibh lena bhféintreoir, a saoirse, a n-aontacht agus a síocháin a bhaint amach.

Tacaíonn an CNE chomh maith le cearta an phobail chun maireachtáil inár dtír féin, le cothromaíocht iomlán idir mná agus fir, agus le todhchaí ár gclainne a chinntiú. Dearbhaíonn muid an ceart chun ár gcultúr féin, a bhfuil an teanga mar lár ann, a bheith againn chomh maith le cultúir pobal eile.

## Aontacht

Tá an teorainn ag bréagnú saol polaitiúil, eacnamúil, sóisialta agus cultúrtha na tíre; tá sí ag cothú deighilt sheicteach i measc ár ndaoine. Ba cheart go mbeadh an réimse leathan de thraidisiún, chultúr agus dearcaidh mhuintir na hEireann ina fhoinsé nirt ach tá siad in úsáid le muid a scoilt.

Dearbhaíonn Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hEireann a dhearg-ghráin ar an seicteachas agus creideann sí go bhfuil na eighilteanna seo ag cosc ar chearta achan traidisiún agus fíor-dhaonlathas sa tír.

Ní féidir aontacht na tíre a bheith ann gan stad le cur isteach na Breataine ar Eirinn agus cead a thabhairt do mhuintir na hEireann a dtodhchaí a roghnú féin.

## Síocháin

Tá an ceart ag gach éinne maireachtáil faoi shíocháin mar dhuine aonair go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta. Beidh fíorshíocháin bainte amach againn nuair a gheofar bunchearta agus nuair a bheas ár bhféiniúlacht chultúrach á cosaint. Beidh síocháin don tír go hidirnáisiúnta dearbhaithe trí sheasamh dearfach neodrachtacha le dímhíleatú iltáobhach a chothú agus le cosaint iomlán na timpeallachta. Eilimid go dtosóidh Rialtas Shasana an próiseas sin lena fhógairt go n-imeoidh siad ón tír sa tslí go dtig linn Eire shaor, aontaithe agus shíochánta a thógail.

## An aontaíonn tú le cuspóirí Chomhdháil Náisiúnta na hEireann?

Ar mhaith leat páirt a ghlacadh inti agus cuidiú lena cuid oibre?  
An féidir leat cruinniú poiblí a eagrú chun craobh a chur ar bun?

Ainm: \_\_\_\_\_

Seoladh: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Táille ballraíochta £5 dóibh siúd ar phá agus £3.00 dóibh siúd gan pá.

Cuir ag ais chuig:

Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hEireann,

Bosco Poist 2814,

Baile Atha Cliath 7.

Is féidir sintiúis a chur chuig:

Banc na hEireann, Faiche an Cholaiste, Baile Atha Cliath 2, Uimhir cuntais

13733967 nó chuig Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hEireann, Bosca 2814,

Baile Atha Cliath 7.



# The work so far

## ■ ARTICLES TWO AND THREE:

The INC has actively spearheaded the campaign throughout the country, distributing over 500,000 leaflets, holding public meetings, information stalls and producing information packs.

## ■ BORDER ROADS:

In conjunction with local community associations along the border, the INC has assisted in opening roads, has run buses from various parts of the country to openings and has helped to highlight the adverse impact of closed roads.

## ■ JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS:

Members of the INC have played an active role in supporting the Birmingham 6, the Guildford 4 and other cases of miscarriages of justice. At present we are supporting the Ballymurphy 7, the Casement accused, the Bloody Sunday Justice Campaign, Equality/MacBride Principles and the anti-strip-searches campaign.

## ■ VOTES FOR EMIGRANTS:

The INC supports the right of Irish emigrants to vote in elections.

## ■ CENSORSHIP:

The INC has sponsored public meetings on censorship and media bias. We call for the repeal of Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act. We also pursue bias in the print media, seeking more balance in their presentation.

## ■ PEACE:

The INC campaigns for a peaceful resolution of the political conflict in the North of Ireland. Seventy years of partition has

only fueled conflict and division. British policy has failed. The INC calls for the peaceful reunification of our country, based on guarantees of equality and civil liberties for all. We believe there must be inclusive negotiations, without preconditions, as a means of achieving progress away from the current stalemate.

## ■ CULLYHANNA INQUIRY:

In the wake of the killing of Fergal Caraher by British soldiers the INC, along with the Cullyhanna Justice Group, organised a public inquiry chaired by Michael Mansfield QC. The pressure brought to bear has, in this case, been successful. However, there are numerous cases of killings by the British army and RUC where the British Government has refused to allow a proper inquiry or to press charges even where substantial evidence exists.

## ■ SELLAFIELD:

The INC calls for the closure of Sellafield.

## ■ MAASTRICHT:

The INC opposes moves towards an undemocratic and highly centralised superstate. We campaign in defence of Irish neutrality and sovereignty.

## ■ EASTER 1916:

The INC played the key role in organising the highly successful events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of 1916. We sponsor events to promote debate on our history and seek to show how revisionist historians have misused their sources to promote a view of history which seeks to lend support to the continuation of British rule in Ireland.

## ■ AN GAELIGE:

Tacaíonn CNE le cearta Gaelgeoirí. Foilsíonn muid leagan Gaeilge d'ár mbileoga srl.

## FORM A BRANCH IN YOUR AREA

### Financial Appeal

Please send what you can to:

National Office Appeal,  
The INC,  
PO Box 2814,  
Dublin 7.

All donations will be acknowledged

### Help form an INC Branch

One of the INC's most urgent tasks is to establish branches in every county and then in every town. Can you help? If so please contact INC Chairperson Robert Ballagh, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7 or Tel: 8202019/8210493.

Yes I can help form an INC Branch

(tick box if you are willing)

#### Order Leaflets or Pamphlets

Distributing Defend Articles Two and Three leaflets and our pamphlets entitled *The Case for the Defence of Articles Two and Three* are some of the best ways of spreading our message. Order some with this form while renewing your membership.

Please send me ..... leaflets @ £10 per thousand

..... pamphlets @ £1 each + (p&p)

#### Order Extra News-sheets

Could you distribute copies of this news-sheet, to others who might be interested in the INC? If so order some on this form while renewing your membership.

Please send me ..... copies of this news-sheet @ £10 per 100 including p&p.