



INC NEWS

Freedom
Unity
Peace

Nuacht Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hÉireann

~

Saoirse

Aontacht

Síocháin

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK?

The INC welcomes recent developments such as the decision of the LVF to disband their forces, the PIRA decision to fully decommission its weapons and Britain's pledge to remove their watchtowers, disband the RIR and cut troop numbers to 5000 within two years. However, we believe that it is vital that Irish Republicans do not delude themselves as to the true nature of the British state.

The long-term goal of British policy in the North remains the defeat of the Irish separatist project and the full re-imposition of British power and authority. In the short to medium term however, for propaganda purposes, the British will seek to convey the impression of political progress towards the restoration of devolved government. Therefore, it is likely that pressure will be placed upon the Democratic Unionist Party to join with Sinn Féin in restoring the Northern executive. Sweeteners, both tangible and symbolic, in the form of a number of measures will be added to placate the DUP. However, any new administration is likely to be short lived, and will collapse or will be collapsed once the DUP can find a suitable pretext for doing so. The DUP will be assisted in this directly by the British state security apparatus, which is determined to destroy Irish Republicanism root and branch, and operates effectively as a law unto itself.

The DUP will walk away from the process, safe in the knowledge that no effective, sanctions will be taken against it. Leading DUP politicians, such as Nigel Dodds, have repeatedly stated that the party will not share power with Sinn Féin.

On the constitutional issue, the DUP and the British State are at one – the defence of the Union. Much of the "dirty tricks and black propaganda" recently aimed at Irish Republicans comes from hidden centres of power within the British system.

As we have argued before, the Belfast Agreement is now effectively dead. That creates serious problems for Irish democracy, as the whole thrust of DUP policy is to prevent any change. Two things must be prevented at all costs. Firstly, any attempt to restore some form of Unionist hegemony. Secondly, in order to prevent Nationalist political

disintegration and the de-politicisation of the Nationalist / Republican base; there are measures both immediate and medium term that nationalist Ireland can take to help maintain the political momentum.

- Nationalist Ireland should continue the policy of seeking the maximum degree of national unity around a programme designed to strengthen and promote the Irish position
- At grass-roots level in the North, activists should ensure that the greatest numbers of people are kept involved in the continuing struggle, through political mobilisation in its many forms. Issues such as crime, poverty and individual despair, need to be tackled to prevent the type of social disintegration, nihilism and de-politicisation that has occurred in Unionist working-class districts.
- Unrelenting pressure must be kept upon the Irish government to ensure that it pursues the Irish national interest, rather than acting on British or Unionist concerns

In addition to these, nationalist Ireland should put the following demands:

- 1) Demand that the British disband those instruments of their own creation; the UDA UVF etc.
- 2) Demand that the British rein in their own so-called security services. The campaign of spying, informer recruitment, dirty tricks and destabilisation must be stopped.
- 3) Demand an end to Britain's monopoly on sovereignty over the six north-eastern counties of our country.

The aggressive, expansionist and imperialist nature of the British state, dormant since the end of the Second World War, is once more re-emerging onto the global stage. Historically Ireland has played a vital role both strategically and in terms of human resources in British Imperial ambitions. It is therefore imperative that all Irish Republicans remain acutely aware of these dangers and resist any attempts to reincorporate the Irish state and its elite into the British system.

Michael Mullin Rest In Peace

~

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis

From Irish Elite to British Establishment

Historically, one of the options open to a major power wishing to absorb or annex a smaller country over a prolonged period of time, would have been to gradually integrate the elite and notables of the smaller country into the social and political establishment of the major, imperial power.

Could this be what the British are now trying to do, amongst other things, to the Irish state, by awarding titles of nobility to selected Irish citizens and leading Irish notables?

The latest notable to receive a British state honour is Dr. Michael Smurfit, The Chairman of Smurfit International, the paper and packaging conglomerate. Dr. Smurfit, an Irish citizen, has been awarded the title... "Knight Commander of the British Empire"! He now joins with other leading figures of the Irish elite such as Tony O'Reilly, Peter Sutherland, Edward Haughey and Michael O'Kennedy who have received awards from the British monarch.

World famous, Dundalk based family pop group, *The Corrs*, are the very latest Irish citizens to receive awards from the British state. The four musicians were awarded honorary MBE's at a ceremony at the British Embassy in Dublin on November 7th. The title MBE stands for: "Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire"!

The National Question remains unresolved in Ireland despite the recent assertions of our Taoiseach. Irish separatist nationalism and British imperialism are two mutually hostile and irreconcilable ideologies. How on earth can any Irish person be a loyal citizen if they hold titles such as; "Knight Commander or "Member of the British Empire"? These awards by their very nature create a conflict of interests. Indeed, they are meant to do just that.

HONOURING IRELANDS ENEMIES

No satisfactory explanation has been offered by the Irish government for participation by the Irish state in the bizarre event held in Carrigaline, Co. Cork in July, to commemorate the local exploits of the 16th Century English warlord, slave trader and pirate, Sir Francis Drake. A government minister, and a detachment of the Irish naval service were in attendance.

Drake participated in the naval actions that led to the defeat of the Spanish armada in 1588. Spain was consistently Ireland's ally in the fight against the English colonial state.

More seriously, Drake was heavily involved in the mass murder of the 600 residents of Rathlin Island off County Antrim in 1575.

Around the same time as the Drake ceremony, the Irish Naval Service was participating along side the Royal Navy in an event to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Admiral Nelson's defeat of the French and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar. Again France, just like Spain had been the ally of an Ireland struggling for freedom!

What an unusual country we have become! Our government participates in events to celebrate the military defeats of our historic allies by the armed forces of our colonial overlords!

No other country behaves like this. Would the government of the modern Czech Republic for example, commission a monument to the exploits of SS - Obergruppenfuehrer Reinhard Heydrich the 20th century equivalent of Francis Drake in Nazi occupied Prague? Of course not! the very thought would be absurd. the Czech nation, although sharing our experiences of centuries of bullying and colonisation by a much larger neighbour have nevertheless maintained their sense of nationality and self respect.

OBITUARY

It is with much sadness and regret that we report the death of Michael Mullen from our Dublin branch.

Michael was a member of the INC since its inception, and involved himself in every aspect of INC activities. Whenever we had a public meeting, demonstration, parade, leafleting campaign, collecting signatures, or filling in border roads bombed by the British army, Michael was always available. He was part of the INC delegation that visited Short Strand in Belfast in 2002

He epitomised true republicanism. Michael was also involved in trade union activities all his life.

To Michael's family, friends and neighbours we offer our deepest sympathies. He will be a huge loss to the INC.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.



Above: Michael Mullen displays the Orange Orders "declaration of purity" at the INC's protest against the civic endorsement of sectarianism, Dawson St. Dublin, 28 May 2000.

LOSING THE PLOT

Sooner, rather than later, society in the Irish state must make fundamental decisions regarding its political identity, ethos and future policy directions.

Will we continue along the path of nation building, slowly and painfully trying to assert a distinct post colonial Irish identity in alliance with the nations of Europe, or, do we now instead see ourselves as part of the so called 'Anglosphere', re-aligning ourselves ever more closely towards Great Britain, the USA and the white Commonwealth dominions?

This is a serious question, and it is being posed because recent Irish government actions and trends suggest that the Irish state is involved in a significant shift away from the type of political identity that has been projected since the establishment of the Republic of Ireland in 1949. Up until recently, the ethos of the state was Nationalist, Republican and Separatist, in terms of putting a distance between ourselves and the British polity. This distance was expressed through symbolism and ceremonial, as well as through actual legislation. The 1937 constitution, *Bunreacht Na hÉireann* provided the ideological underpinning of this order.

Usually a shift in policies regarding symbolism and ceremonial is indicative of a more fundamental shift in actual political policy matters. In a previous issue of *INC News* we referred to a process that we termed 'Re-Britishing', a process whereby the Irish state is changing the way it projects itself politically and symbolically, in order to accommodate aspects of political Britishness. The reason for these changes could be either domestic (in terms of an appeal to six counties Unionism etc.) or more to do with possible direct or indirect British pressure for quid pro-quo concessions from the Irish for changes made in the North of Ireland. Let us examine three areas where these changes have taken place.

(1) British honours system.

In the past four years or so, the British state has been bestowing titles and honours upon selected Irish citizens, as if they were her own British subjects. Not only should this be seen as an infringement on Irish sovereignty, it should also be seen as an attack on the republican and egalitarian ethos of *Bunreacht Na hÉireann*. The Irish government has remained silent on this matter throughout.

(2) Imperial monuments.

The government has been supporting the initiatives of small unrepresentative groups in the 26 counties who are erecting new monuments and memorials glorifying past British military figures and events. The Irish government's contribution has been in the form of the presence of senior cabinet ministers and Defence Forces personnel at unveiling ceremonies. This is happening at a time when anti-national

elements are calling for the forcible removal of certain long-standing Irish Republican monuments. These people are also responsible for vilifying and rubbishing past Irish Nationalist heroes in the Dublin media and academic circles.

(3) Ceremonial.

Why is it that the Irish state has decided to involve itself in the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony of the Royal British Legion, a quasi-military organisation, which promotes Anglo-British patriotic values? What is supposed to be wrong with our own National Day of Commemoration? It would seem that the state has finally capitulated to the incessant three decade long pressure by certain pro-British individuals and groups. We would argue that this amounts to a surrender of sovereign control over state ceremonial to our ideological adversaries. Some will also interpret the government's presence at these ceremonies, as being retrospective endorsement by the Irish state of John Redmond's pledge of the young men of Ireland to Britain's war effort in 1914. Thirty five thousand Irishmen died in that holocaust.

The worrying thing about these developments is the way that they have come about without debate or discussion. The government may well counter by pointing to the need, as they would see it, to 'reach out' to Northern Unionists. We would however see these moves as going the wrong way about it altogether. Major symbolic changes such as the ending of the constitutional claim in articles 2 & 3 have made no impression whatsoever on Unionist attitudes and have only increased their demands.

The latest demand of Unionists and their pro-British allies in the south, is that Irish nationalists and republicans must now renounce and abandon our aspiration to national re-unification. Be warned! That demand suggests that we may soon have to face a campaign for the total re-writing of the already re-worded Articles 2 & 3.

— Francis Martin
INC Dublin



Above: The latest "Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire", Irish pop group *The Corrs* proudly display their medals. The Order's motto is "For God and the Empire".

PSYCHOPATHIC LOYALISM



Earlier this year our President, Mary McAleese, apologised for remarks at an Auschwitz commemoration ceremony which likened the way Nazi's brought their children up to hate Jews to the way some Protestants were brought up to hate Catholics. While this October one of the main architects of the peace process, Fr. Alex Reid, apologised at a public meeting for saying that Unionists treated Catholics in the same as way that the Nazi's treated the Jews.

Of course the INC recognises that these remarks were insensitive and ill judged. To imply that all Protestants were brought up to hate Catholics is incorrect and does a grave injustice to those tens of thousands of Protestant families North and South who not only did not raise their children to hate Catholics but who, at great personal risk to their lives and livelihoods, valiantly raised their children to recognise and fight sectarianism and inequality where ever they found it. And of course, Unionists did not copy the Nazi's by implementing an industrialised policy of genocidal extermination.

However, one could argue that the Nazi's drew some inspiration from the methods employed during Elizabeth I and Cromwell's military campaigns in Ireland in their invasion of the Soviet Union. One could also argue that the 1935 Nazi Nuremberg laws were inspired by the racist Statutes of Kilkenny of 1366 and sectarian penal laws of the early 18th Century.

If a sectarian pogrom in Belfast from 12-21 July 1935, which left nine Catholics dead and over 250 driven from their homes failed to raise cries of indignation in Britain or abroad, then of course the Nazi state could

have felt confident that its anti Jewish pogrom, 'Kristallnacht', on the 9th November 1938, during which 91 Jews were killed and 7000 Jewish properties were burned, would be met with similar indifference

Unlike contemporary Germany or southern Ireland, similar pogroms are an annual occurrence in Northern Ireland, most recently this September when 'respectable' and 'democratic', Unionist politicians called people onto the streets to support a supremacist Orange parade resulting in attacks on Catholic homes, schools and churches.

One of the most unfortunate things about these remarks is that it has deflected attention from a vitally important issue crying out for debate; that being the scale and intensity of sectarianism within Northern Unionist culture.

While it is true Republican paramilitaries have been responsible for some terrible war crimes over the last 30 years such as Darkley and Kingsmills they have never produced psychopathic sadists like Lenny Murphy's Shankill butchers, Ned Mc Creery's 'romper room' killers or Davey Payne (one of the killers of Senator Paddy Wilson). Loyalist paramilitaries like these repeatedly abducted, tortured and killed randomly selected innocent Catholics, the killings were up close, prolonged and apparently enjoyed. Such killings were just one manifestation of a more widespread visceral anti Catholic hatred, which bordered on the genocidal.

In Spring 1972 the 'UDA Bulletin' published a letter from a woman reader which stated: "I no longer have any compassion for any Nationalist man, woman or child...Where the hell are the MEN in our

community....Why have they not started to hit back the only way these nationalist bastards understand? That is ruthless, indiscriminate killing...If I had a flame thrower I would roast the slimy excreta that pass for human beings."

While more recently a Belfast DUP councillor, Nelson Mc Causland hypocritically passed a motion condemning Fr Reid's comments although none of his party colleagues thought to pass a similar motion when Belfast DUP councillor George Seawright said of Catholics on the 29th May 1984 *"Taxpayers money would be better spent on an incinerator and burning the whole lot of them. The priests should be thrown in and burned as well"*.

These comments are just symptomatic of a wide spread contempt for Catholics which leads people to picket Catholic masses in Harryville, throw urine and pipe-bombs at primary school girls in Holy Cross, place maggots in the pockets of children's clothes in the Portadown branch of *Dunnes Stores* during the Drumcree protest and threaten to dig up and urinate on the Catholic dead during a blessing of the graves ceremony in North Belfast.

In what other society would an unashamedly sectarian organisation like the Orange Order, which bars not only Catholics but anyone married to a Catholic from membership, form such a fundamental element in the political, security and legal establishment. (A point well worth remembering given the number of Protestants murdered by loyalists for being married to a Catholic.)

That over 50,000 people think it is acceptable to belong to an overtly sectarian organisation indicates the scale of sectarianism in Northern Protestant society. If instead of Catholics the Orange Order treated Jews or blacks in this way there would rightly be an international outcry.

What other bankrupt political philosophy would adopt a racist politician like Enoch Powell to act as their intellectual Guru from 1974-87 or allows John Taylor's membership of the Fascist 'ERG' group in the European parliament from 1987-9. How could over 13% of the electorate vote for a shamelessly pseudo Fascist party like Bill Craig's Ulster Vanguard which held Nuremberg style rally's and salutes in Ormeau Park in March 1972 during which he pledged to 'liquidate the enemy'. David Trimble who was deputy leader of this party later went on to become leader of the largest Unionist party, the UUP in 1995.

Loyalist paramilitaries have extensive links with neo-Nazi groups like Belgium's VMO and Britain's Combat 18 and have engaged in hundreds of racist attacks on ethnic minorities as well as their usual sectarian and criminal activities.

This virulent sectarianism manifests itself in popular culture with such songs as 'The Billy Boys' with its line "we are up to our necks in Fenian blood, surrender or you die!" and the *Iron Maiden* inspired loyalist street murals depicting a skeletal loyalist striding over Catholic corpses.

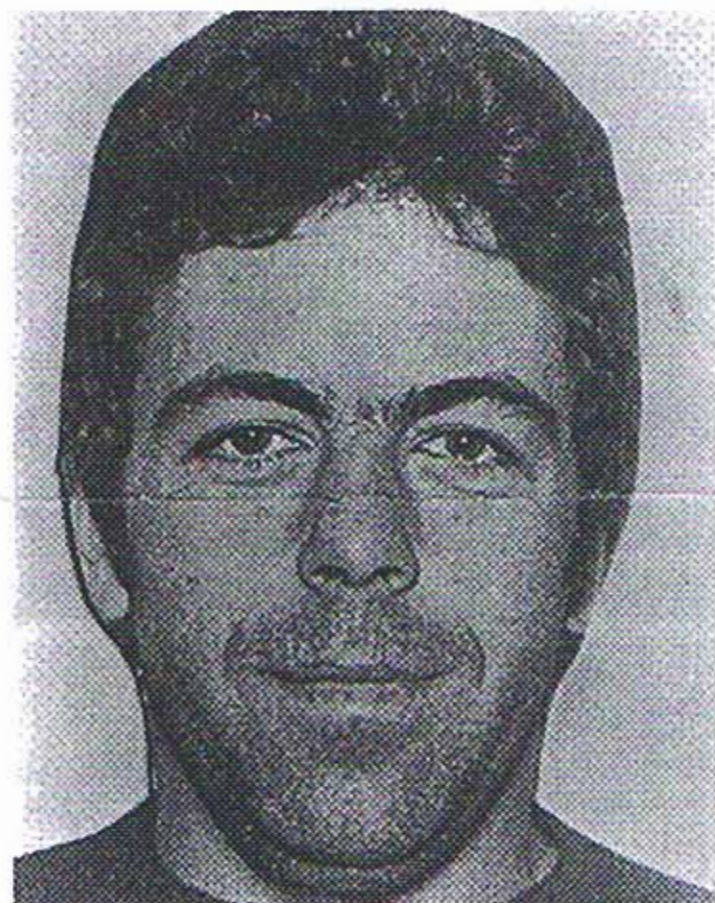
Surely any community faced with such evidence of widespread, intense and enduring sectarian hatred would question itself as to its origins and to any possible cure.

We believe that Lenny Murphy and the many others like him were not born sectarian sadists, but mutated into them by the dysfunctional colonial nature of Northern Ireland society. Settler ideologies can only justify their forceful expropriation of native land and continuing monopoly on state power by the creation of a myth of racial or sectarian superiority which is used to disempower the native population and which fuels discrimination and murder.

Albert Memi said of the coloniser in his book *The Coloniser and the Colonised*: *"This man perhaps a warm friend and affectionate father, who in his native country could have been a democrat will surely be transformed into a conservative reactionary or even a colonial fascist"*.

We believe that if Ireland is ever to know true peace and if Loyalism is ever to be exorcised of the demons within its midst, this dysfunctional colonial relationship and supremacist ideology must be dissolved.

— Paul McGuill
Runai



Above: Hugh Leonard Thompson Murphy, who formed the Shankill Butchers, was described by journalists as The Master Butcher. His "catholic sounding" surname led to his persecution as a child, for which he took revenge on all Catholics. His friends called him Lenny. For further information read Martin Dillon's *The Shankill Butchers: A Case Study of Mass Murder*.

Daily Ireland: THE ALL-IRELAND WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR?

It was with great expectation and hope that Irish nationalists and republicans awaited the arrival of Ireland's newest national newspaper.

For too long, newspapers that promote a pro-unionist / British line, and attack nationalists and republicans at every opportunity, have dominated the Irish print media, with the honourable exception of the *Sunday Business Post*.

It has become quite depressing to pick up an Irish newspaper and try to detect a semblance of balanced reporting. The kind of self-loathing demonstrated in most Irish newspapers is indicative of a serious case of post-colonial syndrome. It seems that above all we must not upset the unionists or the British, even if that means distorting the truth or ignoring the facts.

This attitude was particularly evident at the time of the Northern Bank robbery and the murder of Robert McCartney. The newspapers could not wait to pin the blame for the robbery on the IRA, with little or no evidence to support this claim. The same was true when it came to the discovery of money, purported to have come from the Northern Bank, in Co. Cork. The papers took the weak claims of both the Gardaí and the PSNI without question and accepted them as fact. Neither police force could provide any evidence to back up their claims, but the print media, and particularly RTE, were egging them on and creating fact out of insinuation.

This is simply not good enough, the media's job is to probe and investigate on behalf of the public, not act as cheerleaders for the Establishment. In the Robert McCartney case it became apparent that the media was more interested in doing a bit of Sinn Féin bashing, than in actually finding out the truth about the case. Compare the wall-to-wall coverage of this case, with the comparative silence of the media in relation to the many loyalist murders perpetrated since their ceasefires were announced. This is not a criticism of the McCartney family, it is totally understandable that they will use as much media coverage as they can get, to further the search for justice for their brother Robert. It is the media's exploitation of the McCartney family to support their own agenda that is at issue. Where were the media when such families as the Hamills and McGoldricks needed support?

These examples serve to illustrate the skewed agenda of the Irish media and are only the tip of the iceberg. The incessant anti-nationalist and pro-unionist/British propaganda comes in many forms, from the vitriolic *Sunday Independent* to the more subtle *Irish Times*. The people of Ireland deserve a questioning and truthful media, and so far this has not been available. Until that is, the launch of *Daily Ireland*.

How heartening it was when *Daily Ireland* was launched, and it became clear that this was to be a newspaper that wasn't afraid to express nationalistic sentiment.

Its coverage of matters pertaining to the North is extensive and does not pander to Establishment sensibilities. It continually highlights cases where the British Government has been implicated in dirty tricks, including murder. Current political developments are reported without the continual references to 'concessions to republicans' that are found in other papers. It is not afraid to lay the blame

for certain events at the unionists' door, when all other papers still manage to blame republicans. The importance of *Daily Ireland* has been demonstrated during the recent sectarian campaign of loyalists against Catholics, in various parts of the North, particularly north Antrim. It is evident that other newspapers would prefer to sweep this vicious sectarianism under the carpet, as to expose it would upset the unionists and the British. *Daily Ireland* has reported the truth of this story and given Northern Catholics under siege a national voice.

Opinion pieces have their place in newspapers, but all others seem to employ unionist and pro-British columnists. A diet of Kevin Myers, Eoghan Harris, Fintan O'Toole, Conor Cruise O'Brien *et al.* has been quite nauseating for many Irish people. The likes of Damien Kiberd, Jude Collins and Danny Morrison who write in *Daily Ireland*, provide a powerful antidote to the rantings of the aforementioned. The paper has employed some excellent columnists, who are proud to speak of Ireland's history of struggle against oppression, and who will not apologise for this.

There are just a couple of quibbles in relation to the paper. Although it is vital that matters relating to the North are given prominence, there is a danger that stories emanating from other parts of the country are not covered sufficiently. If *Daily Ireland* is to become a truly *national* newspaper then it must reflect issues and stories from around the whole country. The general public in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Dublin will only buy the paper when their areas are covered adequately.

For example, when the *Ferns report* was published recently it merited only one small article. The issues raised by the report are relevant for the whole country and not just the diocese of Ferns. Unfortunately this 'partitionism' is also evident in the classified ads. and entertainments pages. All adverts and cinema listings relate to the North. This is also true of the family notices page, which reads like a Belfast local; all addresses are not county specific.

It has to be said that the sports coverage suffers from a similar problem. The GAA reportage focuses almost entirely on the Ulster counties. In relation to soccer, there is a lack of coverage of the National (Eircom) League. Saturday editions often contain no reports of the previous night's National League matches, but cover the English Premiership extensively. We are swamped with English soccer; why not focus more on the game in Ireland? There is a responsibility on us, as nationalists and republicans, to contribute to *Daily Ireland* in order to make it a truly national newspaper. The above criticisms are intended as constructive assistance to this process.

Daily Ireland is an extremely important addition to Irish newspaper stands, and it has so far managed to survive in a cutthroat market. It is good to hear its articles mentioned on RTE's *What it Says in the Papers* and see them on the 'Nuzhound' website. The INC wishes it well, and urges all its members to buy it every day. If it is not available in your local shop, then ask the proprietor to start supplying it. Now at last, the nationalist voice can be heard all over Ireland.

— Mark Urwin
INC National Executive

BUNREACT na hEORPA AR LAR?

Baineadh geit mhór as ceannairí polaitiúla an Aontais Eorpaigh (AE) nuair a fógladh torthaí na reifrinn ar Bhunreacht na hEorpa a tharla sa bhFrainc agus san Ísiltír le déanaí. Sa bhFrainc dhiúltaigh 55% don bhunreacht agus san Ísiltír 62% a bhí ina haghaidh. Ní hamhain san ach bhí líon na ndaoine a chaith vóta an-ard sa dá thír, 70% sa bhFrainc agus 63% san Ísiltír. Ní hamhlaidh go bhféadfadh ceannairí na hEorpa an cluas bhodhar a thabhairt dá saoránaigh féin, an bhféadfadh? Nach gciallaíonn 'daonlathas' daonlathas?

Gan amhras, nuair a dhiúltaigh vótóirí na hÉireann do Chonradh Nice (an chéad cheann!), dúradh linn nach nglacfaí lenár nguth daonlathach toisc gur tír 'an-bheag' í Éire agus nár chaith go leor daoine vóta sa reifreann úd. Má leantar leis an loighic sin tá coincheap an daonlathais san Eoraip ag brath air cé chomh mór is atá tú is cé chomh líonmhar is atá do mhuintir! Ní loighic ná daonlathas í seo, gan amhras, ach míloighic is, frithdhaonlathas. Dáiríre níl ann ach Rialú an Mhaorlathais. Bhí sé soiléir don té is daille ag an am ná beadh Nice 2 ann chor ar bith dá mba rud é go raibh an bua ag lucht Tá le haon vóta amháin, cuma cé chomh gann líon na vótóirí.

Cé a chreidfeadh, áfach, nach nglacfaidh maorlathas pholaitiúil na hEorpa le guth mhuintir na Fraince is na hÍsiltíre? Tar éis na reifrinn úd bhí Bunreacht na hEorpa ar lár, nach raibh? Bhuel, sa ráiteas* a d'eisigh Ceannairí Stát an AE tar éis na vótaí a theacht isteach dúradar gur 'thuig' siad "cúraimí is imní" na saoranach a duirt Níl. Níor dhóigh leo, áfach, go raibh na vótóirí úd "i gcoinne Bunreacht na hEorpa". Dar leo, bheidis féin ag glacadh "deis machnaimh" sula rachaidis "ar aghaidh leis an bpróiseas"! Níor bhain an ráiteas san aon gheit dhaonlathach asainne, a throid agus a bhuaigh Nice 1. Thuigearmar agus tuigtear dúinn go fóill nach 'democratic deficit' atá i gceartlár an AE ach folús dhaonlathach. Tagann méadú suntasach ar an bhfolús san le gach vóta daonlathach, mar dheia, a chaitear san AE.

I suirbhéanna a glacadh ó shin léirítear go bhfuil tromlach mhuintir na Gréige, na Seice, na Danmhairge, na Breataine agus na hOstaire ag vótáil Níl in aon reifrinn a thionólfar ar Bhunreacht na hEorpa. Ach an mbeidh reifrinn ann chor ar bith? Má bhíonn cén chruth a mbeidh orthu? Céard is fiú reifrinn mura nglactar leis na torthaí? Nach cuma anois an tír 'bheag' nó tír 'mhór' a fhreagraíonn Níl? Nach cuma anois cé chomh líonmhar nó cé chomh fánach lucht vótála?

San AE anois, de réir dealraimh, tá seanmhana Henry Ford athchruthithe ag ár gceannairí polaitiúla; Is féidir pé fhreagra is mian leat a thabhairt. ...a fhad is gur Tá atá ann! Ná ceap, mar sin, go bhfuil Bunreacht na hEorpa marbh agus curtha sa chónra inár cheart dó a bheith, amhail Dracula táid á athbheoú faoi láthair agus oíche dhorcha eigin. ...blodh imeagla ort fós.

* "The European institutions, but also member states, want to understand what European citizens want. But we are not going to stop. We are not going to come to a halt. We have something to do." – JM Barroso, Uacht. Choim. na hEorpa, 17 July '05.

– Feergus Mac Aogáin
Coiste Stiúrtha CSN / PANA.
www.pana.ie

An Ghaeilge

Tugann Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hÉireann tacaíocht do fhorbairt na Gaeilge. Ba bhreá linn alt as Gaeilge a bheith i ngach eagrán den "INC News", ach tá fadhb mhór againn. Níl a dhóthain líofacht nó muinín ag aon duine, ar an gcoiste seo, alt mar sin a scríobh. Dá bhri sin, táimid ag brath oraibhse, ár léitheoirí, go háirithe an chuid díobh go bhfuil an Ghaeilge ar thoil agaibh, sliocht a scríobh. Má chuirfidh sibh ábhar oiriúnach chughainn, beidh an t-eagarthóir thar a bheith sásta é a fhoilsiú.

Summer Raffle Results

The winners of the Summer 2005 raffle were:

- 1st prize (A Summer Hamper): Kay Fleming, Derry City.
2nd prize, (A Case of Wine.): Mairtin MacThomáis, Ballincollig Co. Cork.
3rd Prize, (A €50 Book Token): Robert Irwin, Bridge St., Limerick City.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all our members and supporters who subscribed and without whose help our work would be impossible.

Christmas Raffle

The prizes for this years Christmas raffle are:

- 1st: A Christmas Hamper
2nd: A Book Token.
3rd: A Bottle of Spirits.

With this newsletter you will receive a booklet of (6) raffle tickets. Tickets are €2 each or €10 per booklet. If you would like to participate in this draw, please send your completed stubs and money to I.N.C. P.O. Box 2814, Dublin 7 before the 15th December, Bearing in mind the uncertainty of the situation with An Post, we would urge member to return entries as soon as possible. The draw will take place on Saturday 17th December. As ever your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

DONATIONS NEEDED

We have no big financial backer to pay our bills.
We only survive on the voluntary contributions of our supporters. Please send what you can to:
Irish National Congress, P.O. Box 2814, Dublin 7.
All contributions will be acknowledged.

Irish National Congress
Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hÉireann
We would like to extend seasons greetings to all our members and supporters in Ireland and overseas
nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaíse

A SUCCESSFUL AGM



Above: Robert Ballagh, Sheila Kelly and Finian McGrath TD, at our AGM in May.

On May 28th we had a most successful AGM in the Teachers Club. Our principal guest speakers were former INC Leas Cathaoirleach and current independent TD Finian McGrath, and former Cathaoirleach, founder member Robert Ballagh.

We had an attendance of about 50 members, which included Sheila Kelly, widow of the late Captain James Kelly, Fianna Fáil Senator Mary White and many long-standing loyal members. For those members who were unable to attend, the following is a brief update on some of the issues which the National Executive was involved in during the year.

1. The INC engaged with the Irish Naval HQ in Haulbowline Co Cork regarding the participation of the Irish Navy in the Fleet Review of the Battle of Trafalgar bi-centenary celebrations. Needless to say, we objected strongly to Irish Navy participation.
2. On behalf of our members, we sent condolences to the Mayor's office in the Greater London Authority after the terrorist attacks in London on July 7th. Mayor Ken Livingstone responded to our letter and thanked the INC for its concerns.
3. We made clear our objections to the Minister for Defence attending the commemoration of the Remembrance Day ceremonies, which was organised by the Royal British Legion in Limerick. We believe that the National Day of Commemoration, which is held annually in Dublin each July, should suffice.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE INC THEN
FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT TO:
Irish National Congress, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7.
Membership Fee: waged €10 / unwaged €5

Name.....

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e-mail.....



4. We engaged with the Office of An Taoiseach to urge him in his capacity as President of the European Parliament to ensure that the Irish language would be accorded the status of an official language of the EU.
5. We have been in regular contact with the campaign organisers to clear the name of the late Capt. James Kelly. The Late Captain's widow, Sheila, was a special guest at our AGM in May. We wish this campaign every success.
6. Some of our Cork members were instrumental in highlighting the proposed participation of the Orange Order in the St Patrick's Day Parade in Cork's 'City of Culture' pageant. They were also involved in bringing to national attention the bewildering decision to erect a memorial in Carrigaline Co. Cork to the British pirate and mass murderer of Irish citizens on Rathlin Island, Francis Drake.
7. In addition to the above, we lobbied, in conjunction with other nationalist organisations, on issues like the Dublin and Monaghan bombings, the murder of Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson and the murders of those whose names would not be as prominent as others, by means of letters to newspapers and local radio interviews. We would urge all our members to take an active role in exposing these injustices by contacting their local and national representatives and by writing to both local and national newspapers.
8. Contact was made with the Minister for Foreign Affairs to demand that the killers of Peter McBride from the Ardoyne in Belfast, be removed from serving in the British Army. Both Mark Wright and James Fisher have subsequently been promoted in their respective regiments.
9. As next year is the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Easter rebellion, the INC will be involved in activities nationwide to celebrate the event. Members will be informed in advance of such activities. All information can be accessed on our website at www.inc.ie.

We believe that there is a very concerted effort by anti-nationalist lobby groups who appear to enjoy media coverage out of all proportion to their size, to re-write our recent history.

To the fore of this grouping is the Reform Movement who has some very high profile and influential members in its ranks. Apart from Eoghan Harris, Ruth Dudley-Edwards and Bruce Arnold, former Taoiseach John Bruton addressed their conference in 2004 at Dublin's Mansion House. We must ensure they do not succeed. The incoming National Executive will work to ensure that they don't succeed.

The newly elected National Executive are: Tom Cooper (Cathaoirleach), Dr. Ann McCloskey (Leas Cathaoirleach), Paul McGuill (Runa), Angela O'Mahony (Treasurer), Cathal Óg McCarthy (PRO), Cathal McCarthy, Paddy Maguire, Mark Urwin, Shane Holden, Fergus Fleming and Denis Ryan.

Finally, I would like to welcome all our new members that have joined in the last year. It is encouraging to see so many young people joining the INC.

—Tom Cooper,
Cathaoirleach.