



# INC NEWS

Freedom  
Unity  
Peace

Nuacht Comhdháil Náisiúnta na hÉireann



Saoirse

Aontacht

Síocháin

## OPTIMISM WITHOUT ILLUSIONS

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 Ian Paisley was elected First Minister and Martin McGuinness elected Deputy First Minister of a power-sharing Northern Executive. Make no mistake, this was undeniably a monumental historic and for us, unforeseen event in Irish history, an event which has advanced the position of Irish nationalism.

Although the sovereignty issue has largely been ignored by the 1998 and subsequent agreements, the relative ease with which the Executive was established and the relaxed and comfortable body language between the two leaders is in stark contrast to the grudging and awkward participation of David Trimble.

Unionism, for the first time, seems genuinely engaged in inter-community power-sharing and cross-border cooperation. While it is true that this inter-community cooperation on bread and butter issues will not in itself advance, nor indeed address, the sovereignty issue it will build a positive framework within which the sovereignty issue can be addressed in the future. The fact that the champion of rejectionist unionism can work alongside the man believed to have been the IRA's Chief of Staff 30 years ago resulted in the defection of only one DUP MEP and 18 councillors to Jim Allister's "Traditional Unionist Voice" is encouraging.

Such cross-community co-operation undermines the philosophical foundations of unionism's opposition to Irish unity. For if they can work alongside former IRA gunmen in a regional power-sharing executive, why not alongside Irish ministers in a sovereign Irish government?

The INC believes that Irish republicans and nationalists should give this Executive time and space to bed down, as its success will ultimately advance the cause of Irish unity. While we support the power-sharing Executive, we are under no illusions that there is nothing inevitable about a united and sovereign Ireland.

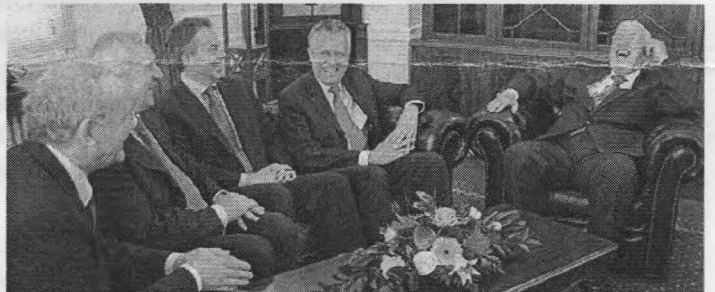
Unionism has its own agenda in participating in this process. Firstly, they seek to prevent their Plan B nightmare scenario of joint sovereignty. (A course the INC has been advocating for nearly 10 years). Secondly, unionism believes that for accepting the police, decommissioning its weapons and working as devolved "British ministers" they can draw the separatist teeth from Irish republicans and induce them to accept an internal British settlement. This proposition is not as ludicrous as it might first appear and Irish republicans and nationalists will need to demonstrate ceaseless vigilance and tireless efforts to ensure the successful realisation of our goals.

Nor will power-sharing be all plain-sailing. Unionist opposition to the Irish Language Act, a replacement of the 11



Above: Stormont, May 2007. Power-sharing and joke-sharing, Ian Paisley & Martin McGuinness are sworn in as First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Below: More joke-sharing with Martin McGuinness, Bertie Ahern, Tony Blair, Peter Hain and Rev Ian Paisley.



plus and devolution of security powers are examples that the old supremacist attitudes have not entirely gone away.

It is quite likely that when Ian Paisley relinquishes control of the DUP leadership and office of First Minister, that such conflicts may increase in frequency and intensity. Republicans and nationalists will need to devise collective strategies to counter such potential opposition. Britain's intentions can, as ever, be characterised as malevolence cloaked in altruism. She knows that she can tolerate direct rule, power sharing or even unity so long as her agents and surrogates, both unionist and republican, can deny the Irish people the unfettered exercise of their sovereignty and allow Ireland to be governed in the interests of Britain, not Ireland.

It is widely accepted that Irish unification will be a process and not an event. Nobody expects to awake one morning to witness delirious crowds beating a dismounted Carson's statue with their shoes while the tricolour is hoisted above Stormont. One could cautiously suggest that with that handshake by the Boyne launched that long, arduous and uncertain process. However, all who strive for Irish freedom would do well to remember the words of Arthur Griffith who wrote, "*England keeps no treaties, she has power to break with advantage.*"

# EMPIRE? BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, TORN THE T-SHIRT!

*“Sometimes I like to compare the EU as a creation to the organisation of Empire. We have the dimensions of Empire.”* – Jose Barroso, President EU Commission, speaking on Lisbon Treaty 10/7/07

*“An léir dúinn uile go bhfuil fúinn rud éigin a chrúthú a bheidh ina chumhacht dhomhanda?”* – Romano Prodi, Pairlimint na hEorpa, Feabhra 2001

The so-called Lisbon/Reform Treaty is a surreal and cynical exercise to circumvent the democratic will of the French and Dutch voters, both having already rejected it when it was called the Constitutional Treaty. Calling an elephant a duck doesn't make it a duck or less of an elephant. Playing 'find the Lady Democracy' is a 3 card trick that our political masters are adept at through many a European Treaty but, hopefully, trying to hide an elephant under a cup will prove too difficult a task for even our most brass-necked conjurors. Let's be very clear about this: The only reason that referendums on the so-called Lisbon Treaty will not be held in any E.U. member state bar Ireland is that the treaty would be rejected by the peoples of those states. Moreover, the only reason there will be a referendum in Ireland is because of the courage of a single citizen, Raymond Crotty.

The Peace and Neutrality Alliance (PANA) is advocating a No vote on the so-called Lisbon Treaty because it further endorses the creation of a centralised, militarised Super-State, the New Empire. If we were still part of the Old Empire, of course, we wouldn't have to bother our little heads about it at all, as UK citizens will not be voting. Perhaps it is of some significance, after all, that the referendum will take place in the year that marks the 90th anniversary of the historic vote in 1918 when the Irish people voted for the Republic.

The military provisions of the so-called Lisbon Treaty remain largely the same as those in the defeated Constitutional Treaty, namely:

1. Strengthening of EU internationally through establishing permanent E.U. President, an EU Foreign Minister and an E.U. Department of Foreign Affairs.
2. The incorporation of the European Defence Agency (EDA) into the European Treaties. The purpose of the EDA is to promote the European Arms Industry (at present 29% of global arms sales), and to assist in the development of the EU's defence capabilities.
3. An obligation on member states to increase their military capacity.
4. An expansion of the so-called Petersburg Tasks to be carried out by the EU's military and civilian forces, to include combating terrorism and possible pre-emptive military action against perceived 'threats'.
5. A new innovation, called Structured Co-operation, which allows mini-military alliances to be established within the structures of the E.U. in order to carry out 'more demanding missions'.
6. Mutual Solidarity and Mutual Defence Clauses which oblige all member states to come to the assistance of any member state subject to armed aggression, terrorist threat or attack, or manmade/natural disaster.

EDA (Article 28.3): “Member States shall undertake progressively to improve their military capabilities. The agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments (EDA) shall identify operational requirements, shall promote measures to satisfy those requirements, shall contribute to identifying and, where appropriate, implementing any measure needed to strengthen the industrial and technological base of the defence sector, shall participate in defining a European capabilities and armaments policy, and shall assist the Council in evaluating the improvement of military capabilities.”

Cuireadh an EDA ar bun cheana féin (nuair a síníodh Bunreacht na hEorpa, Meitheamh 2004) le buiséad e20milliún agus Javier Solana(iar-cheannaireNATO) mar cheannaire air (Ní rabhadar ag fanacht ar ghuth na ndaoine a chlos gan amhras). Ní raibh fadhb ar bith ag Rialtas na hÉireann leis an EDA mar, tar éis ‘cinneadh rialtais’, shínigh an tír seo mar bhall den eagraíocht nua, Iúil 2004.Níor cuireadh an ‘cinneadh rialtais’ san faoi bhráid na Dála riamh. Dúirt an tAire Cosanta ,Willie O’Dea, nach raibh impleachtaí ar bith inár mballraíocht ach amháin ár gcuid féin de bhuiséad an EDA a íoc.

De réir dealraimh, ní chuireann sé isteach ná amach ar Willie ná ar an rialtas go bhfuilid ag tacú agus ag cothú tionscal na n-arm.Dhá bhliain tar éis do Brian Cowen, é ina Aire Ghnóthaí Eachtracha ag an am, a rá linn nach raibh baint ar bith ag Reifrenn Nice le tionscal na n-arm,tá an tír seo ag caitheamh airgid chun airm agus armlóin na hEorpa a fhorbairt agus a dhíol go domhanda.

The importance of highlighting the EDA here is merely to emphasise how major military developments such as the EDA, Rapid Reaction Forces, Battlegroups can be advanced without ever being specifically mentioned in EU Treaties (“It isn't an elephant, it's only a duck”).

Much was made at the time of the Nice Referendum of the single word “might” in the area of an E.U. Common Defence policy. Those in favour of ratification, denying that such a policy was being advocated, oft quoted the line “might lead to a Common Defence should the European Council so decide”. Well surprise, surprise...In Article 28A(2) of the so-called Lisbon Treaty, the relevant section now reads: “The common security and defence policy SHALL include the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy. This WILL lead to a common defence, when the European Council, acting unanimously, so decides.” The need for member states to show mutual solidarity and loyalty to the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy is made abundantly clear in Article 11(3): “The member States shall support the Union's external and security policy actively and unreservedly in a spirit of

loyalty and mutual solidarity and shall comply with the Union's actions in this area." Tá cuma eilifinte ar na "shall's" sin, dar liomsa, ach bí cinnte nach bhfuil iontu ach lacha nuair a fhaigheann Bertie nó Willie nó Brian greim ar micrafón!

These are just a couple of specific examples of the military and defence clauses, which lead PANA to conclude that the so-called Lisbon Treaty be opposed. With regard to the militarisation of the E.U., PANA has long advocated the inclusion of a Protocol (similar to the Danish Protocol), which would exclude this country from participation in or payment for such militarisation. Such a Protocol would read:

*"With regard to measures adopted by the Council in the relevant articles, Ireland does not participate in the elaboration and implementation of decisions and actions which have defence implications, but will not prevent the development of closer cooperation between member states in this area. Therefore Ireland shall not participate in their adoption. Ireland shall not contribute to the financing of the operational expenditure arising from such measures."*

– Feargus Mac Aogáin,  
Coiste Náisiúnta C.S.N/PANA

Further information and analysis on [www.pana.ie](http://www.pana.ie)

## Captain Kelly Justice Campaign A Civil Rights Veterans' Initiative



Captain James J. Kelly 1929 – 2003

July 16th, 2003: Former Irish army captain, intelligence officer and founding member of the INC, James J. Kelly, died. At his death-bed family members promised to continue his 33-year long campaign for justice. Unexpectedly, within hours of his death An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern TD, tells journalists, "Captain Jim Kelly acted on what he believed were the proper orders of his superiors. For my part, I never found any reason to doubt his integrity". After his acquittal at the Arms Trial in 1970, Kelly was denied his Army pension for a period by the Lynch administration. The Captain Kelly Justice Campaign are petitioning the government "...calling on An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern TD, and both houses of the Oireachtas... to immediately activate whatever political and / or legal measures necessary to clear the good name of the recently deceased Irish Army captain..."

The petition is enclosed with this issue of INC News. We strongly urge our members to actively support this campaign by collecting signatures. Make photocopies of the blank petition if feel that you can collect more than one page. Return completed petitions to the address supplied.

## EXORCISING THE REVISIONIST DEMONS

**Kevin Myers, English immigrant extraordinaire and writer of self-aggrandising books, may have vacated his 'Irishman's Diary' in the Irish Times, but he hasn't gone away you know.**

Mr. Myers continues to champion the cause of British militarism and imperialism in the pages of the Irish Independent.

Back in 2004 Myers devoted his 'Irishman's Diary' to an attack on our Cathaoirleach, Tom Cooper, and another private citizen, for having the audacity to express their own views and criticise those of 'Field-marshal' Myers in letters to the editor.

At the time this was an unprecedented development. Fast forward to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and he's at again, only this time Tom is his sole target. In his article, entitled *Banishing ghosts of a Rising that very nearly destroyed us*, Myers began:

"The letters page of this newspaper regularly achieves the extraordinary feat of hearing the authentic Voice of 1950s Ireland, miraculously commenting on events of today. No doubt, the letters editor conducts seances into that happy epoch, and amid the ghosts of John A Costello, Dev and John Charles McQuaid, he is able to conjure up the One True Voice, which -- for epistolary purposes -- then signs itself, Tom Cooper, Knocklyon."

Mr. Myers then went on to blame the 1916 Rising for the censorship laws of the 1950's and cited a number examples! Our eloquent Cathaoirleach put him straight :

"By any standards, Mr Myers' critique of Irish life since independence, focusing specifically on the Censorship Board as he did, is unwarranted, as most, if not all, fledgling states in finding their feet, so to speak, evolve in their own time until their standards are identified and reflected in legislation.

The open air lunatic asylum, which Mr Myers disparagingly refers to Ireland as, was not by any means unique in its censorship laws.

Take for example Britain, where Mr Myers is from.

Chris Moore's 'The Kincora Scandal' was banned for alleging British cover-up over Satanic abuse.

'The Rights of Man' (Thomas Paine) was also to fall victim to the censors, as was Peter Wright's 'Spycatcher' in 1987.

Even George Orwell fell victim to censorship.

'Star Trek -- The Next Generation' suffered the same fate when an episode which referred to the conflict in Northern Ireland was withdrawn.

In 1985, the British government intervened to prevent a 'Real Lives' documentary on BBC, 'At the Edge of the Union', being aired. This action led to a strike by the NUJ to defend the independence of the BBC.

From 1988 to 1994, the voices of Irish republicans were banned on UK television and radio, with actors re-voicing the words.

In 1988, Channel 4 dropped plans to invite an elected member of parliament, Gerry Adams, to appear on the night-time talk show 'After Dark', following an appeal from the British prime minister.

What Mr Myers seems not to grasp is that the banning of books or other items and the subsequent unbanning of them was carried out by an organ of the Irish Government, acting on behalf of the Irish people.

We made our mistakes and we rectified them ourselves without reference to a foreign state. This is the legacy of 1916. This is our inheritance. "

Keep up the good work Tom, your letters are an inspiration.

# Ballymurphy - The Forgotten Massacre

The internment killings of August 1971 by the British army were as carefully planned as internment itself was. In Ballymurphy 11 unarmed civilians were deliberately gunned down by the Parachute Regiment over 3 days and scores were injured, while a further 9 were killed in Belfast also by the Para's with other regiments killing 2 people in Derry and Armagh. The Belfast dead included a Protestant mother of 9 and Catholic mother 8. In Ballymurphy 46 children had parents killed in this incident alone.

Supported by Relatives for Justice, and the Bloody Sunday families, the Ballymurphy families several years ago began a journey to piece together the awful events of those days. Referred to as the forgotten massacre they have gathered witness testimony, survivor testimony, and existing documentation including archive material. They have now begun to publicly tell their story and a campaign for truth, acknowledgement of wrongdoing, and an official apology from the British Government as a start to this work.

Later this year the INC will be hosting a photographic exhibition entitled 'Reflections of Internment' that documents the period, the human loss and legacy. Relatives of those killed will also speak about their experiences and what the future holds in terms of truth and justice. Bloody Sunday Spokesperson, and brother of Michael Kelly, John Kelly will also join the Ballymurphy families focusing on the massacre, Bloody Sunday, the connections between the two incidents and the forthcoming Saville Report into Bloody Sunday.

The Ballymurphy internment massacre, as it has been become known, must be seen in a broader political policy context of the time in which this was not an isolated incident but rather like the Springhill massacre, in July 1972 also in West Belfast, where the British army killed 5 people, including Fr Noel Fitzpatrick and three children, John Dougal, Margaret Gargan and Dee McCaffrey – and father of 4 Eddie Butler who went to their aid.

And like the New Lodge Six massacre in North Belfast again involving the British army - and of course Bloody Sunday 5 months after the Ballymurphy killings – these incidents were designed to subjugate and terrorize a community through horrific acts of violence of barbaric proportions.

In his own words, Col. Derek Wilford of the Parachute Regiment stated that these were "*shock and stun tactics*". His words were echoed by senior British and unionist politicians. Many of us will be familiar with the film footage on Bloody Sunday of the then Fr. Edward Daly who, with a white cloth, escorted the dying and wounded to safety and medical aid, and where we also witnessed that in doing so they were confronted by armed Para's seeking to stop them. Had the cameras not been there then Fr. Daly, like Fr. Mullan killed in Ballymurphy, and Fr. Fitzpatrick in Springhill, would have surely also been murdered. And what lies would we have been told?

There were no cameras in Ballymurphy, Springhill or the New Lodge as the hand of the State once again directed terror seeking to destroy communities - to prevent political, civil, and human rights. The evidence for this is clearly demonstrated in the impunity provided to those responsible through the perfunctory nature of investigations by the British army's own Royal Military Police (RMP), the role of the RUC in facilitating and ensuring impunity, and the domestic legal system via the inquest court in rubber stamping it.

Ensuring impunity in this way was equally part and parcel of the policy and cannot be seen in isolation - it was the official signing off.

This was a policy that continued throughout the course of the conflict in which British crown forces killed almost 400 people directly and injured hundreds more.

It was only when families, supported by groups such as Relatives for Justice, and lawyers began to internationalise the issue and strategically put the system itself on trial in the European Court that a light was shone on the judicial and investigative elements of shoot-to-kill, the use of lethal force and the resulting impunity.

And where the State's hand was less visible - in terms of directing the death squads - the same strategy also brought focus to that part of Britain's policy objective - the dirty war in Ireland – collusion.

Last month around a 100 relatives gathered in Leinster House to listen to a debate on the Dublin/Monaghan bombings and a series of loyalist killings in the 26 county statelet - The debate belatedly followed the Oireachtas Committee's Report that concluded that the incidents constituted 'State sponsored terrorism' by Britain - However, there was a significant failure to move a motion to adequately address the matter, which was led by Bertie Ahern.

Collusion and British state violence has been a constant feature of the conflict on our island and must be faced up to - not avoided. It was often accompanied by a policy of misinformation, distortion, and character assassination of the people they killed directly and indirectly. The lies were aimed at deflecting focus from their activities, and at perpetuating the myth that Britain's role in our country was neutral and as peacekeeper when in fact the very opposite is indeed the case. Policies such as Section 31 sought to further enhance this myth whereby many people in the 26 counties were denied truth/information and as a result many people thought that republicans were to blame for Dublin/Monaghan.

The demonisation of communities in the North was also carefully planned and was policy- the 'terrorist community' a reference to areas like Ballymurphy, the Bogside, New Lodge etc - was about dehumanising us and consequently the value of life they planned to take in our communities. Demonisation and vilification was even extended to those who championed the cause of truth and justice for victims

of British State violence whereby chief constables and British government ministers vilified and made public statements about lawyers setting a backdrop in which the assassinations of Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson were both planned and carried out.

The truth about Britain's role in our country and the human devastation that it has left in its wake must be addressed in an independent international truth commission. The legacy of State impunity must be addressed. The levels to which collusion reached, the use of informers and agents, the arming, directing and controlling of death squads must be addressed. The reality is that collusion was widespread and that British Military Intelligence and Special Branch decided who lived and who died all with governmental sanction. The reality was that a sovereign government that had an international duty to protect its citizens was actively engaged in preparing and planning the deaths of hundreds of its citizens including citizens of the 26 counties and then pretending to investigate them.

We have only had a glimpse of collusion - Raymond McCord dared speak out about events that largely took place as the conflict was ending and essentially over, yet the revelations of that period are still terribly shocking. One can only guess as to its extent when concerning the nationalist and republican community – the perceived enemy - at the height of the conflict.

All of these legacy issues remain unsolved. In the meantime the British government, the MoD, and the PSNI refuse to co-operate with inquests around shoot-to-kill incidents and threaten the use of public interest immunity certificates (gagging orders) around protecting its agents in a whole series of killings by loyalists and republicans- whilst at the same time they seek to play politics with other non-State related incidents such as the arrests of republicans in Tyrone re historic cases. This exposes the nonsense that the PSNI's Historical Enquiries Team (HET), under the control of Hugh Orde, can address these issues – when in fact they are seeking to contain and manage the truth much in the same they did around the Stevens Enquiry into collusion, which incidentally also involved Orde and the senior officers heading up the HET, and the Stalker/Sampson reports which all remain under lock and key.

What we require is an independent international Truth Commission that can examine all matters over this past 40 years. In our view this is last outstanding jigsaw piece of the political process and of the transition. An independent international Truth Commission must address collectively all the hurts and pains by all the actors to the conflict across the island, their policies and practices which includes the roles of both governments, institutions such as the media, churches and civil society. Such a process must also address the underlying causes of conflict including key thematic issues that affected everyone.

– Mark Thompson  
Relatives For Justice

For more information visit:  
[www.relativesforjustice.com](http://www.relativesforjustice.com)



**Above:** Paddy McCarthy, the Ballymurphy Tenants Associations first youth worker. Two Para's accosted Paddy while he was delivering milk for babies to besieged residents during curfew (one sticking a gun in his mouth and the other kicking over a crate of milk). Paddy (44) collapsed on the street and died of a heart attack.

The other Ballymurphy Internment Massacre victims were: Fr Hugh Mullan (38), Frank Quinn (19), Noel Phillips (19), Joan Connolly (45), Danny Teggart (44), Joseph Murphy (41), Joseph Corr (43), Eddie Doherty (28), John Lavery (19), John McKerr (49).

## JOINT STATEMENT ON TRUTH COMMISSION

We the undersigned organisations representing victims of the conflict believe that current investigatory, prosecutorial and judicial arrangements offer no realistic prospect of truth recovery for bereaved families.

We believe that the only way to bring truth to the greatest number of families is through an international independent truth commission. This should be available as a mechanism for all victims who wish to have their cases investigated thoroughly. The focus of such a commission should be on truth and acknowledgement rather than prosecutions. The criminal justice system has frustrated rather than facilitated access to the truth. All combatant groups, British, republican and loyalist should co-operate in good faith and have a moral duty to do so.

British and Irish State policies and actions and those of non-state actors and the role of civil society in both jurisdictions should be examined. The commission should be mandated to establish the causes, context and consequences of the conflict.

International law makes the case that states undergoing transition are faced with certain legal obligations, including: the provision of independent investigation of past violations, upholding victims' rights, providing adequate reparations to victims, preventing future abuses, and preserving and enhancing peace.

We believe that an independent international truth commission provides the best opportunity for truth recovery for the greatest number of those affected by the conflict. We believe this will contribute to individual and societal healing and recovery, dealing with the legacy of the past in a positive way and building a better future for everyone.

Justice For the Forgotten  
Relatives For Justice  
Pat Finucane Centre  
An Fhirinne  
Fírinne  
Ardoyne Commemoration Project

# INC Will Welcome Queen Elizabeth II

**There has been much speculation that a visit from the British Monarch is pending. On 13 February 2008, we sent to following letter to An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern TD.**

Dear Taoiseach,

There has been increased speculation recently about the possibility of a full state visit to the Republic of Ireland by Queen Elizabeth II of England. Some prominent political figures such as President McAleese and indeed yourself, have publicly suggested that the time is now right for such a visit.

We in the Irish National Congress, however, would be strongly opposed to such a visit at this time. We will not be alone in taking this stand. A visit by the British monarch will be a deeply divisive and polarising event, and mass protests would be inevitable. Leaving aside the issue of the unresolved national question in Ireland, our principal reason for opposing a visit by Queen Elizabeth is because of the way the British state has hindered and obstructed investigations into the activities of sections of the British state security services during the period of the armed conflict in Ireland.

In November 2006, a report issued by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, spoke of "acts of international terrorism that were colluded in by the British security forces". The report went on to highlight instances of British obstruction in investigating such crimes as the Dublin and Monaghan bombings of 1974. We find it difficult to understand how any Irish government could contemplate a royal visit given these circumstances.

Queen Elizabeth is not only head of state in Britain, she is also Commander in Chief of all United Kingdom armed forces, which would include the shadowy and unaccountable undercover units responsible for inciting sectarian conflict in the North of Ireland, and widely believed to have carried out terrorist acts in the Republic. Until Britain deals properly with these issues she must be regarded as a hostile and adversarial neighbour. A full state visit at this time will give the impression of normality between our two countries. Nationalist Ireland cannot accept this situation with equanimity, indeed it would be seen as a provocative act.

We in the INC have no wish to create difficulties or to cause embarrassment to our own government. However, if the Irish government does go ahead and issue a formal invitation to Queen Elizabeth, we as Irish citizens will exercise our constitutional right to peaceful protest against such an event. Even at this stage we would call upon the government to reconsider and to set aside any invitation to the British monarch.

In conclusion, the INC was heavily involved with the Irish Peace Process right from the beginning in the early 1990s, and we remain committed to that process today. We would hope that a time will come when a visit to Ireland by a

British head of state will become a normal and uncontroversial event, welcomed by all.

Yours sincerely

Tom Cooper,  
Cathaoirleach,

A recent statement from An Taoiseach has given some clarification on the matter. Speaking in the Dáil on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008, in answer to a question from the Opposition, our Taoiseach said that:

*"...a visit from the Queen of England to this country has been a matter of some debate for some time. Obviously, until the institutions were back up and running in Northern Ireland it was not a matter that had moved on any further than an aspiration that it would happen. It was hoped that, with the devolution of policing, the remaining issues outstanding from both the Good Friday Agreement and the St. Andrews Agreement would be complete and it was the Government's view that at that stage we could discuss the matter more seriously."*

*"I know from over the past decade that she would dearly love to come to this country during her reign and that there has been some discussion around that, but she also understands the practicalities and difficulties of it. If the issue of policing is completed - it is scheduled to be completed and I hope that is the case in the very short term - then we could put our mind to that matter in a serious way. We are due to come back on it at that time and we would have an obligation to do so."*

The Taoiseach went on to say that any invitation to the British Monarch "...would be probably from Áras an Uachtaráin with the agreement of the Government. As I stated, it has been on the agenda for some years, albeit on a low level. It is something to which we should turn our mind, although it is unclear whether it can happen in the very short term...a visit like that in its normal planning would take some considerable time. It will not be in 2008; it would take some considerable time to arrange. However, it is no secret that it is something the Queen would certainly like to do."

*"On the question of whether there has been any Government discussion on a visit by the Queen, the answer is 'No'. It has not got to that stage. There has been no movement and it is unlikely to happen until the devolution of policing is completed. There has been no discussion on the matter over the years. Discussion has mainly been at local, official or embassy level and has not moved from that position"*

When the time is right a visit from the British Monarch will be welcomed by all. However it will take more than the devolution of policing and remaining issues outstanding from both the Good Friday Agreement and the St. Andrews Agreement. We would expect that those "acts of international terrorism that were colluded in by the British security forces." would be acknowledged and apologised for, with full disclosure given to the victim's families. Until then, she is definitely not welcome.

# IRISH UNITY: The Next Steps Forward!

## A new five-year plan for the Irish National Congress 2008 - 2013

The formation of a northern DUP-SF led power-sharing executive took many of us by surprise. While the present positive body language is in stark contrast to the tortured body language of the Trimble administrations we should be constantly alert to the danger posed by elements who oppose power-sharing and cross border reconciliation.

While the INC wish the new devolved administration well, we resolutely believe that the best and ultimate solution to the centuries of conflict on this island remains full Irish sovereign independence and unification.

As other parties may feel themselves constrained by international protocol and power sharing agreements to unequivocally state their beliefs this may well prove to be a key role for the INC.

1) **To champion the cause of Irish unification.**

The INC will argue over the coming years that from a moral, political, philosophical and economic perspective Irish unification and independence remain these islands' best hope for peace, prosperity, stability, progress and reconciliation. We will oppose the partitionist 'little Irelander' mindset.

2) **Assertion of Ireland's separatist ethos and unique culture.** In an increasingly diverse and multi-cultural island the INC will endeavour to successfully integrate recent immigrants into the Irish nation through our support for the widespread participation in the Irish language, sport, music and culture. We will continue to oppose racism and marginalisation while celebrating our proud history of anti-colonial struggle.

3) **Opposition to incremental re-colonisation by stealth.** The INC will continue to oppose and highlight attempts to reincorporate Ireland into the British body politic through the awards of British honours to Irish citizens, 'curtsey' visits by the British armed forces, the sham of 'normal neighbourly relations' portrayed by any Royal state visit and the economic and cultural re-colonisation of the Ireland by British multinationals and mass media.

4) **Justice and civil rights.** The INC will highlight the mistreatment of any Irish political prisoners and miscarriages of justice past and present. We will work with others to expose the collusion of

the British state in the mass sectarian killings of the past 40 years. We will support those who protest their right to live free from sectarian harassment and intimidation. We will fight to expose and prevent any re-emergence of sectarian discrimination. We will campaign for the repeal of all 'emergency' security legislation and judicial apparatus north and south.

5) **Erosion of British sovereignty in Ireland.** Since the 1984 New Ireland forum report most Irish nationalists have defined reunification as a process not an event. The INC will campaign for incremental reforms, which will make the northern state 'semi detached' from the British state. Offensive and politically biased institutions such as the 'crown courts' and their symbolism should be modernised to reflect the new political realities where over 40% of the northern population are Irish separatists. As well as seeking the devolution of security powers Irish nationalists should seek the power to represent the north internationally.

6) **Peace, neutrality and solidarity.** The INC has and will continue to oppose neo imperialist resource wars and will vigorously oppose any attempt to facilitate our participation in them through any erosion of our military neutrality. To this end we will oppose any joint exercises between the Irish and British armed services. We will continue to highlight similarities between the Irish colonial experience and that of other peoples around the world and build alliances.

## Donations Needed Donations Needed

Unlike the Orange Order, who recently received €1,000,000 from Minister Eamon O'Cuiv TD, we have no big financial backer to pay our bills. We only survive on the voluntary contributions of our supporters.

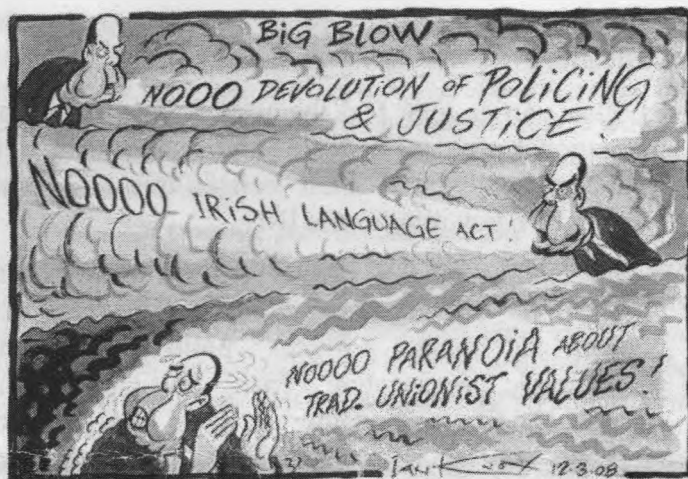
Please send what you can to:

**Irish National Congress,  
P.O. Box 2814, Dublin 7.**

All contributions will be acknowledged.

# JOKE-SHARING

As we say goodbye to 'Big Ian' and as joke-sharing seems to be all the rage in Stormont, here's a few gems from Ian Knox of the *Irish News*. Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter.



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.....

Address.....

e-mail.....

## EASTER RAFFLE 2008

The prizes for this years Easter raffle are:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: A Hamper
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: A Case of Wine
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: A Book Token

With this newsletter you will receive a booklet of (6) raffle tickets. Tickets are €2 each or €10 per booklet. Please send your completed stubs and money to I.N.C. P.O. Box 2814, Dublin 7 before the 22nd March, The draw will take place on Saturday 23rd March. As ever your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated.