



AGREEMENT ABORTED!

In our last issue we made an appeal for republican and nationalist unity in order to achieve common objectives in the national interest. We were ignored. What followed was months of the most odious, petty and internecine party political squabbling and point scoring since the start of the peace process.

In December 2004, attempts to restore the institutions of the Belfast Agreement failed when the DUP insisted on the abject surrender and humiliation of Irish republicanism. Obviously power sharing on these terms was impossible and the entire foundation of the Belfast Agreement collapsed. Rather than admit that inherent flaws in the agreement led to its inevitable demise, the two governments searched around for a suitable scapegoat to explain its failure. As in the past "events" were to oblige. As with the 'Castlereagh break in' and 'Stormont spy ring' the Northern bank robbery provided a timely pretext. All parties agreed that the IRA was responsible, that Sinn Féin had

prior knowledge and that consequently they should be excluded from the political process. The sole basis for this certainty was "intelligence sources"; the self same British "intelligence sources" who were irreconcilably opposed to the peace process since its inception and who sought to sabotage every political agreement which could advance the nationalist political cause over the past 30 years, the same British "intelligence sources" who recruited the Littlejohn brothers to bomb and rob their way around Ireland in 1972 in an attempt to discredit the Official IRA.

Let us be clear, for an Irish government (the alleged 'guarantors' of the rights of Irish citizens in the North) to join in the chorus with Ian Paisley demanding the exclusion of the representatives of the majority of the nationalist population from government is a historic policy shift and to do so without proof, without evidence, but solely based on the accusation made by anonymous secuocrats proven to be hostile to the entire peace process project, undermines the very rationale of the peace process itself.

.....cont'd page 2

BELOW: Our Minister for Defence, Willie O'Dea TD (centre), who recently called on the public to boycott Sinn Féin's Easter commemorations, participates in the Royal British Legion's Remembrance Day ceremony in Limerick.full story inside



In recent months, following the murder of Robert McCartney, enormous pressure has been applied from Britain, America and parties North and South, in an attempt to ideologically browbeat the PIRA out of existence. This has resulted in a statement from Gerry Adams calling on the IRA to consider disbanding.

However, what these parties forget is that physical force republicanism is not created by any individual or group of individuals, but arises in response to the political and historic realities of the time. If these parties genuinely want the IRA to go away they should remove the causes that created it, namely British occupation in Ireland and its denial of Irish national self-determination. To do any less is merely to abdicate to the next generation a future conflict.

Even if an IRA army convention votes to disband, the vote is unlikely to be unanimous, thus making a split and possible eventual return to violence more likely. Frustration at the lack of political progress is likely to lead to greater political polarisation in the May Westminster election.

Based on the 2003 assembly election results Sinn Féin may take one or two seats from the SDLP, while, following Jeffrey Donaldson's defection, the DUP may take up to four seats from the UUP. Even if the SDLP took South Belfast from the UUP, if both the SDLP and UUP leaders lost their seats the future of both parties would be in doubt.

This peace process has not been flawless; between 1995 and 2005 190 people were killed. However 2004 was the first year since 1969 that no one was killed by the PIRA and when we consider that between 1984 and 1994, 924 people were killed, we gain a perspective as to what the defeat of the peace process would mean.

A dangerous precedent has now been established where, even if the IRA decommissioned and disbanded totally, the representatives of the majority of the northern nationalist population could still be excluded from political power, solely on an unproven allegation of criminality, a scenario beyond the wildest dreams of Edward Carson.

The only alternative to the argument of force is the force of argument and unless the political process can demonstrate tangible reform and political progress, the resulting frustrations will inevitably drag us back into conflict.

Centuries of history demonstrate that Britain rarely abides by her commitments under international agreements and if she is to be forced to do so, all Irish nationalists and republicans must unite in a pan-nationalist consensus, which will provide a viable political alternative to physical force and which will seek to finally achieve the realisation of full Irish national self-determination.



ABOVE: Our Minister for Defence, Willie O'Dea TD, participates in the Remembrance Day ceremony of the Royal British Legion in Limerick.

The recent court-martial convictions of British soldiers accused of killing and torturing Iraqi civilians in Basra came as a timely reminder to those, like our Minister for Defence, who participate in British Legion 'remembrance' ceremonies, of the sort of people they choose to commemorate.

BELOW: Photographs shown to a court martial where three soldiers from the British Army's Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were convicted over the ill-treatment of civilian prisoners at a humanitarian aid camp in Iraq.



ABOVE: The soldier identified as Lance Corporal Mark Cooley aims a punch at an Iraqi detainee bound from the waist up in blue netting.

BELOW: LCpl Cooley drives a fork lift with an Iraqi tied to the front, his upper body bound in netting. He said he was moving the man "out of the sun".



The Irish State and the Politics of British Ceremonial

For more than 30 years, there has been an insidious and persistent campaign aimed at forcing the full participation of the Irish state in the annual remembrance Sunday ceremonies of the Royal British legion.

Every year in November, we have seen contrived controversy generated in the Irish media designed to embarrass the Irish government of the day. Irish society in the South has been repeatedly accused of failing to honour the memory of the 35,000 Irish in British uniform who were slaughtered in the so-called Great War of 1914-1918.

In an attempt to appease these agitators, the Irish state established the National Day of Commemoration, held on the first Sunday of July, to honour all the Irish killed in foreign wars, and in service with the United Nations. However, this did not satisfy the unrepresentative cliques who continued with their campaign. It now appears as if these groupings are pushing at an open door, and that the Irish state is now moving in the direction of full participation in Remembrance day events.

If this is now the case - and recent trends point in that direction - then it amounts to no less than a surrender of sovereign control over State ceremonial to the ideological enemies of Irish separatist nationhood.

By way of example let us closely examine last November's Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday ceremony in Limerick. This event was significant because the Irish State was represented at the highest level, by the Minister for Defence, Willie O'Dea, a local T.D. The Mayor of Limerick, Michael Hourigan, praised the role of the British soldiers serving in Iraq today.

The main photograph (shown on the front-page) was taken at this ceremony by an INC member who was monitoring the proceedings. Here we see the standard bearer with the Legion flag. At the very top of the legion flag, is a Union Jack. Alongside the standard bearer, there are other flags being carried, including the Irish tricolour. However, right throughout the ceremony and procession to St. Joseph's church, the union jacked flag of the Royal British legion was always carried at a higher elevation to the others. In addition to the flag issue there was also the disturbing involvement of our Defence Force in this ceremony. A serving soldier in the Defence Forces, Sergeant Nicholas Byrne, played the "Last Post" at the conclusion of the Legion ceremony.

Those who attribute importance to the role of flags and symbolism will view the Limerick ceremony as a massive insult to the Irish flag.

Why is the Irish state allowing itself to become progressively more involved with the ceremonial of a quasi-military organisation that promotes British patriotic nationalism, and identification with the British imperial military tradition? Is there some hidden agenda involved here? Two possible political explanations come to mind.

Firstly: the Irish state is being prepared for eventual restoration of British Commonwealth membership, say within 5-10 years. This cannot happen until Irish society becomes reconciled to British military ceremonial on its territory.

Secondly: There is a small but distinct possibility that Defence Force units will serve alongside British forces in

the proposed European Union 'battle-groups,' formed for the purpose of foreign adventurism. This cannot happen unless the image of the British army amongst the 26 county populace is rehabilitated. A joint British-Irish ceremonial is perhaps seen as an important part in rehabilitating the British army.

Nationalists and republicans concerned with this issue need to do two things.

1. Establish exactly what the Irish Government policy is with regard to the Remembrance Day ceremony.
2. Demand that the Irish State and the Defence forces have no dealings with the Royal British Legion other than at the National Day of Commemoration in July. This will ensure at least, that protocol and ceremonial are controlled by the Sovereign Irish State rather than by pro-imperialist elements.

The Irish state should not allow itself to be made to look like some sort of devolved British colonial administration in situations like this. Irish government ministers should not participate at any ceremony on Irish soil where the Union Jack takes precedence over the Tricolour.

— Francis Martin
INC Dublin

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 Irish state had dragged his good name through the mud and never apologised for it. The Captain Kelly Justice Campaign have set up an online petition "...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..."

INC members are invited to sign this petition at:

www.captainkelly.org

LEST WE FORGET!

The recent court-martial convictions of British soldiers accused of killing and torturing Iraqi civilians in Basra came as a timely reminder to those, like our Minister for Defence Willie O'Dea, who participate in British Legion 'remembrance' ceremonies, of the sort of people they choose to commemorate.

Atrocities committed by the British army and their local hirelings are not unique to Ireland, but have been committed over and over again around the world, so much so that the British Empire was known as one upon which, the sun never set and within which, the blood never dried.

KENYA came under British rule in 1890; in 1922 the British arrested the leader of the East African Association, Harry Thuku for sedition. During a protest outside the prison for his release prison guards opened fire killing about 20 demonstrators.

Britain declared a state of emergency to suppress the Mau Mau revolt in Kenya from 1952 to 1957 in which 32 white settlers and 12 British soldiers were killed. During this time 150,000 Kenyans including Jomo Kenyatta were interned and a similar number died as a result of British policies. One thousand were executed, some by mobile gallows like those used in Ireland in 1797-98 and their bodies displayed in markets and cross-roads. Between November 1952 and April 1953, 430 prisoners were shot "while trying to escape" (a phrase familiar from our War of Independence.) Thousands were tortured, two died while being castrated, others had their eardrums burst or were flogged to death. Eleven Kenyans were murdered by guards in the Hola concentration camp in March 1959. The report by Lord Devlin into the atrocities was buried by the British government, just like so many later reports in the North of Ireland.

MALAWI: The British Governor in 'Nyasaland', Sir Robert Armitage declared a state of emergency on the 18th February 1959 in order to quell rising support for the nationalist leader Dr Hastings Banda who was interned along with many others. Fifty-two people were killed in anti government protests in the following month, twenty of which were shot dead by the security forces at Nkata bay.

GREECE: After driving the German army out of Greece in 1944 the two million strong Greek resistance party, EAM (National Liberation Front), was faced with British interference over the composition of the post war national unity government, as well as demands that the ELAS (National Liberation Army) disarm. Pro monarchists and Nazi collaborators were however allowed by Britain to hold on to their guns and hold key positions in the new Greek army. The Greek army in exile twice mutinied in 1943-1944 demanding a referendum on the future of the unpopular Greek monarchy. The British army put down these mutinies, republican officers were purged from the ranks and 10,000 men (half of the Greek army) were interned. Churchill installed a liberal, George Papandreu, as interim Greek Prime minister. But between November 1944 and January 1945, ELAS and the British army were in open conflict in Athens with 4,000 civilian casualties, including 25 shot dead by British forces at a peaceful protest on 3rd December 1944. By March 1945, ELAS had agreed to demobilise and disarm in return for an amnesty. After a general election in March and a referendum on the

monarchy in September 1946, both marred by right wing intimidation, the new puppet right wing monarchist government proceeded to intern 80,000 former ELAS partisans by July 1946.

CYPRUS: Britain declared a state of emergency in Cyprus between 1952-1957 during which suspected EOKA members were interned and tortured. Archbishop Makarios was exiled to the Seychelles. When Nicos Georgiou was killed in police custody in June 1957 a public inquiry was ruled out as it might damage security force morale. EOKA member Michael Karolis was executed on the 10th May 1956 for killing a special branch detective this led to anti British riots in Athens, in which seven were killed and the city's Mayor publicly destroyed a plaque dedicated to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. On the 18th December 1954, British soldiers shot two Cypriots during rioting in Nicosia. Seven Turkish Cypriots were killed by soldiers during anti British rioting on 28th January 1958. Out of the more than 500 people who were killed in this conflict only 79 were British servicemen. After independence in 1960 Britain retained military bases on the island.

INDIA: British rule in India was the prototype upon which Hitler based his plans to govern Russia. In 1877, five million had died in a famine, which had ravaged India, and in 1885 the Indian National Congress was formed to lobby for Indian interests. During the First World War demands for Indian independence grew and on 13th April 1919 peaceful protests against the oppressive Rowlatt acts led to rioting. In a show of force, Irishman, Brigadier General Reginald Dyer, led a small detachment of Gurka troops into a peaceful demonstration at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar and opened fire, killing 379 and wounding hundreds of others. He then proceeded to have other Indians flogged and made them crawl on their bellies through the streets. On the 17th November 1921, 53 people were killed during rioting in Bardoli and Bombay during a visit by the Prince of Wales. Between August and September 1942, Gandhi's 'Quit India' campaign was suppressed by Britain leading to the internment of 50 Congress leaders. The strafing of rioters by aircraft and police firing into rioters left at least 300 dead. While in February 1946, 7,000 sailors of the Indian Navy in Bombay, staged a four-day mutiny that led to rioting in which 223 people were killed. Their British commander, F.W. King, frequently referred to the sailors as "coolie bastards".

Decades of British policy of divide and rule which assiduously nurtured sectarian, communal and social divisions, erupted in the holocaust of winter 1947 where at least 400,000 Hindus and Muslims were killed and 8,500,000 were forced to flee their homes during the Indian civil war.

MALAYSIA: The Malayan emergency was fought between 16th June 1948 and 31st July 1960, between Britain and the Communist, largely Chinese, Malay Races Liberation Army (MRLA) led by Chin Peng (ironically this group had been trained and armed by the British against the Japanese during World War II). This conflict witnessed much barbarity by both sides with the MRLA torturing and gang raping civilians and allegations of British army war crimes being hushed up later by Edward Heath's government in 1970 (a prelude to Widgey). Half a million

Chinese peasants were resettled in model villages to drain the rebels' pool of support. In all 6,710 MRLA, 519 British, 1,346 Malay soldiers and 2,478 civilians (400 in the first year) were killed in this conflict, which gradually came to an end after Malaysia gained independence in 1957.

GHANA: On the 28th February 1948, a crowd of African ex-servicemen went to present Governor Sir Gerard Creasy with a petition asking for greater representation and independence. However, when they reached Christensborg Castle in Accra a white police officer, Superintendent Imray, ordered his men to shoot into the unarmed crowd. When they refused to disperse, he proceeded to shoot dead three protesters, Sergeant Adjeter, Private Odartey Lampley, and Corporal Attipoe. This massacre led to rioting and looting, which was followed by the internment of six nationalist leaders including Dr Kwame Nkrumah. After his release he called for a strike and boycott on 9th January 1950, which led to rioting in which two policemen were killed, again nationalist leaders were arrested. But by the 6th March 1957, Ghana had achieved its independence.

NIGERIA: In September 1920 the 'West African Congress' sent a delegation to London to seek greater black representation. Their demands were rejected, as Britain preferred 'indirect rule' through client chieftains like chief Bkuso rather than educated, democratic 'trousered niggers' like the WAC. In October 1929, 10,000 native women rioted in the city of Aba in protest at the introduction of new taxes on goods sold in the markets. In suppressing the protest, British forces shot dead 50 women.

EGYPT: Britain had governed Egypt and its strategically vital Suez canal since 1882. Following the first World War, the leader of 'Wafd', Egypt's largest nationalist party, Said Zaghlul, asked the British High Commissioner, Sir Reginald Windgate, to restore Egypt's independence. However, Britain had other ideas and in March 1919 arrested Zaghlul and other Wafd leaders and deported them to Malta. Egyptian "Gyppo's" were assaulted and insulted in the streets by British troops, which led to strikes and riots across Egypt, during which demonstrators were shot down in the streets, strafed by aircraft, flogged and executed by court martial. Within eight weeks 1,500 Egyptians were killed. By 1922 the British were forced to grant Egypt a limited form of autonomy. However, they installed a pro-British puppet monarchy of King Faud, and retained a huge garrison in Suez. Anti British attacks continued until 1936, when Britain recognised the 'independence' of Egypt under the new King Faruq in return for a military alliance and bases. Britain was worried by Faruq's neutrality during the Second World War and imposed the new Wafd leader, Mustafa Al Nahas, as Prime minister at gun-point on the 4th February 1942 to keep Faruq in check. After winning an overall majority in 1950, Al Nahas revoked the 1936 treaty on 8th October 1951, seeking to expel the 38,000 strong British garrison. But the British responded by disarming Egyptian police in the canal zone in preparation for an invasion. On the 25th January 1952, 50 Egyptian police were killed and 100 wounded by British forces besieging their station in Ismailia, this led to the deaths of 17 Britons in rioting in Cairo. Two days later King Faruq dismissed the Wafd government only to be deposed himself by a military coup led by General Naguib and Colonel Nasser in July 1952.

After President Nasser nationalised the Suez canal in July 1956 Britain entered into the secret Treaty of

Sevres with France and Israel to invade Egypt, take over the canal and depose Nasser. The 'Suez crisis' saw over 1,000 Egyptian and 12 British fatalities before the Anglo-French troops were forced to withdraw by an international outcry.

IRAQ: In the autumn of 1918 British troops were welcomed into northern Iraq as liberators by the Kurds, who set about creating an independent Kurdistan. They did not realise that the secret Sykes-Picot pact of 1916 had given Iraq and its oil fields to Britain. The fascist British governor of Iraq, Colonel Sir Arnold Wilson, ordered the destruction of the Kurdish state in May 1919. Winston Churchill authorised the use of poison gas saying, "I do not understand this squeamishness about the use of gas. I am strongly in favour of using poisoned gas against uncivilised tribes".

Following the publication of the San Remo treaty, which formally granted Iraq to Britain in May 1920, Iraqi factions united in revolt, which lasted until the end of the year. By 1st October 1920, 416 British and over 4,000 Iraqis had been killed. In March 1921 the Hashemite British puppet, Faisal, was made King of Iraq. Britain kept up this 'Arab facade' of sham 'independence' through the use of 'air control' where recalcitrant natives were machine gunned by British planes and armoured cars.

By 1930 Britain's League of Nations 'Mandate' in Iraq ended and it became theoretically independent. However, the Anglo-Iraqi treaty of that year allowed Britain to retain military bases there (like our treaty ports) and the Iraqi army was armed and trained by Britain. After King Faisal's death in 1932, Iraq came increasingly under the influence of pro German Iraqi nationalist generals. To secure its oil supply Britain invaded Iraq in spring 1941. The Iraqi Prime minister Rashid Ali appealed to the Germans for help. But by the end of May, the British had conquered Iraq, installed its own puppet government under Nuri es Said and purged 3,000 nationalist officers from the Iraqi army. Another 3,000 Iraqi troops had been killed in the six-week invasion.

The litany of British atrocities and perfidy is quite literally endless; the cases I have outlined only cover a few of Britain's former colonies and a short period from 1918 to 1960. Every country and every age has its own horror stories to tell. Irish ministers and citizens would do well to remember some of them before they lend their support in a public relations rehabilitation exercise for one of the most reviled and disgraced armies in the world. Given the appalling behaviour of this army is it any wonder that British foreign policy is famous for "having no friends, only interests".

— Paul McGuill
Runai



ABOVE: LCpl Darren Larkin of the British Army's Royal Regiment of Fusiliers stands on an Iraqi, with one foot on his leg and another near his shoulder.

Ireland should commemorate the victims of the British Army and Imperialism.

Bunreacht na hEorpa

"An léir dúinn uile go bhfuil fuinn rud éigin a chruthú a bheidh ina chumhacht dhomhanda?"

– Romano Prodi, Pairlimint na hEorpa, Feabhra 2001.

Roimh dheireadh na bliana 2006 beidh lucht vótála na tíre seo ag caitheamh vóta ar son, nó in aghaidh, Bunreacht an Aontas Eorpaigh. Is léir tábhacht na Bunreachta seo toisc go mbeidh beagnach leath de thíortha an Aontais ag vótáil uirthi i reifrinn seachas i a dhearbhu le vóta pairiminte amháin mar ar tharla go dtí seo.

I measc na nithe nua sa Bhunreacht a láidreoidh an Aontas (AE) i gcúrsaí eachtracha is cosanta tá:

(i) Uachtarán buan don AE.

(ii) Aire Ghnóthaí Eachtracha don AE.

(iii) Roinn Ghnóthaí Eachtracha don AE.

(iv) Leathnúna "Petersburg Tasks" chun fórsaí míleata an AE a chur in aghaidh "sceimhlitheoirí" agus "bagairtí seachtracha".

(v) Comhoibriú Structúrtha: Beidh cead ag tíortha laistigh den AE mion-chomhghuaillíochtaí míleata a chur ar bun eatarthu féin agus feidhmiú in ainm an AE.

Má ghlactar le Bunreacht na hEorpa mar sin, cruthófar AE a mbeidh gné láidir míleata ag baint leis, maraon le breis caiteachais ar thionscal na n-arm¹ agus dlúthcheangal le haonad míleata adamhach NATO. Céim mhór eile i an bhunreacht seo i dtreo comhghuaillíocht míleata iomlán, lena cumas míleata féin agus le geallúintí comhchosanta, laistigh de fhráma an AE². Ní léir dúinn i gComhaontas na Síochána is na Neodrachta (CSN) go bhfuil áit ar bith ann ina leithéid d'aontas do stát neodrach lena polasaí eachtrach neamhspleách féin. Tabharfar droim láimhe do neamhspleáchas, daonlathas agus neodracht na hÉireann má ghlactar le Bunreacht an Aontais mar a mholann na maorlathas pholaitiúil dúinn a dhéanamh. Is léir a ndilseacht siúd d'ollstát impiriúil lárnach os rud é go mbeidh barr ag Bunreacht na hEorpa thar ár mBunreacht féin³.

Tacaíonn CSN go huile is go hiomlán leis an Eoraip dhaonlathach, Eoraip ina bhfuil stáit dhaonlathacha neamhspleácha comhionann go dlíthiúil. Ní thacaíonn CSN, áfach, le míleatú Aontas na hEorpa ná le hAontas Míleata na hEorpa ach an oiread. Tá traidisiún an daonlathais ann san Eoraip ach tá traidisiún an Impiriúlachais Eorpaigh ann chomh maith. Bhí ar Éire páirt a ghlacadh san Impiriúlachas Eorpach mar chuid de "chumhacht dhomhanda" uair dá raibh. Ní raibh an dara rogha againn an uair sin ach tá anois. Dá bhri sin, creideann CSN go mba chóir d'Éirinn comhghnas a lorg (mar atá ag An Danmhairg) a scaoilfeadh an tír seo ó chúinsí míleata agus ó chostais míleata an Luathfórsa Eorpaigh (Arm na hEorpa) agus ó na Díormaí Chatha (Battlegroups).

Molann CSN go gcuirfí neodracht mhíleata na hÉireann i réim arís trí alt dá réir a chur isteach i mBunreacht na tíre. Ní thagann úsáid Aerfort na Sionainne d'fhórsaí cogaidh is ionraidh lenár stádas mar thíre neodrach. Is laistigh de na Náisiúin Aontaithe a mba chóir dúinn, mar náisiún neamhspleách, cúrsaí slándála na hÉireann agus dhomhanda a chur chun cinn seachas trí bhloc míleata AE – NATO.

Ar na cúiseanna thuasluaite molann CSN diúltú do Bhunreacht an AE nuair a bheidh deis ann ag an reifrinn a reachtaífar amach anseo. Faoi láthair, tá CSN i mbun feachtais in aghaidh na Bunreachta chéanna mar eagraíocht ann féin agus mar bhall den ghrúpa nua-bhunaithe C.A.E.U.C (Campaign Against EU Constitution). Tuilleadh eolais le fáil ar ár suíomh idirlíon www.pana.ie

– Feargus Mac Aogáin
Coiste Stiúrtha CSN / PANA.

¹ Alt 4.03, ² Alt 42, ³ Alt 1-10 (Bunreacht na hEorpa)

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.

Irish National Congress AGM 2005

Our 2005 AGM will take place in Dublin on Saturday, May 28th, starting at 11am at the Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square West, Dublin. All members and supporters are welcome to attend.

At this AGM we will have two main speakers. Deputy Finian McGrath, a former INC Leas Cathaoirleach, is an independent TD for Dublin North Central. Finian has campaigned vigorously on health related issues and was also part of a delegation that visited Columbia in connection with the three Irish political prisoners held there on dubious charges.

Robert Ballagh, one of Ireland's leading artists, was our Cathaoirleach from 1990 – 1998. Bobby was to the fore in defending Articles 2 & 3. More recently he has been involved in the campaign against the proposed E.U. constitution, which if implemented would reduce the sovereignty of E.U. member states.

The AGM will conclude with an address from Tom Cooper, outgoing Cathaoirleach of the INC and the election of a new National Executive.

We will try to keep the AGM as informal as possible. The emphasis will be on creating an opportunity for old friends to meet each other, and for discussion on how best to continue the work of the INC. We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Raffle Results

The winners of the Christmas 2004 raffle were:

1st prize (A Christmas Hamper): Fionnbarra O'Dochartaigh Crawford Square, Derry.

2nd prize, (A Case of Wine.): Robin Hart, Strawberry Beds, Dublin.

3rd Prize, (A €50 Book Token): Richard O'Carroll, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all our members and supporters who subscribed and without whose help our work would be impossible. The success of the Christmas raffle meant that for the first time ever the INC News could be produced in colour.

Summer Raffle

As Easter came early this year, it was decided to hold a summer raffle instead. The prizes for this year's raffle are:

1st: A Summer Picnic Hamper

2nd: A Case of Wine.

3rd: A €50 Book Token.

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 27th May. The draw will take place during the AGM on Saturday 28th May. As ever your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Defend Our National Monuments

Last December (2004), individuals claiming to be "anti-fascist" deliberately damaged the Republican monument to Sean Russell in Dublin's Fairview Park.

Russell was a former IRA Chief of Staff who died aboard a German U-boat in 1940, and was buried at sea. He had been returning to Ireland from Germany having tried to secure an arms shipment to launch a military campaign against British rule in the six counties. In previous years he had made similar expeditions to America and the Soviet Union.

Russell, according to those who knew him, had no hard-line ideological world view apart from a firm commitment to ending British rule in Ireland. Yet today in Ireland Russell is being branded a Nazi sympathiser, an anti-Semite, and a murderous fanatic with the blood of the innocents of the Holocaust on his hands. Russell's legacy is being subjected to a Big Lie technique worthy of Dr. Goebbels.

For some time now there has been an orchestrated campaign waged, aimed at getting Dublin City Council to remove Russell's statue from Fairview Park forever. This campaign has involved individuals such as Kevin Myers, the rabidly anti-republican Irish Times Columnist, and by opportunist politicians such as Eoin Ryan MEP.

Those who attacked Russell's statue probably couldn't care less about the Jews, the Holocaust, Hitler or the Nazis. The real purpose of the attack was to cause the maximum degree of embarrassment to Irish Republicanism, to tar it with the taint of Fascism. It is part of a bigger ideological offensive against Irish separatist nationalism. Russell's statue is probably seen as a potential weak link in all this because of the universal loathing for the Third Reich, and the obloquy attached to any individual who had dealings with it, even while not endorsing its policies. Russell it can be argued was foolish and naive in choosing to go to Germany. But the charges of Fascism and anti-Semitism are simply lies and smears.

It is imperative that nationalist Ireland opposes any attempt to remove Russell's monument from Fairview Park. If this attempt were to succeed anti-national elements would undoubtedly target other Irish Republican monuments for removal on the grounds of their being 'racist' or 'offensive' or whatever.


There is another issue that needs to be kept in mind arising out of the Russell controversy. The Irish state is now actively promoting the restoration of British Imperial monuments and memorials; such as the one last year in Mayo with Sergeant Coughlan's grave and this year with the memorial to British Royal Navy submariners in Carrigaline Co. Cork. There will undoubtedly be others to come in the future. Significant sections of the Irish political elite now seem hell-bent on restoring the British dimension to the 26 Counties. We Nationalists and Republicans need to be vigilant.

In the meantime, Matt Doyle of the National Graves Association says that they are determined to repair the damage and retain the statue of Russell based on the reaction of local Dubliners, which has been supportive. If INC members would like to lend their support, then donations can be sent to: **The National Graves Association, 74 Dame Street, Dublin 2.**




ABOVE: The defaced monument to Seán Russell in Fairview Park. The head and right arm of the statue were smashed off in the attack and have not been recovered.

**Irish
National
Congress**



**Comhhdail
Náisiúnta
na hÉireann**

**THE PROCLAMATION OF
POBLACHT NA hÉIREANN
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
11am, Saturday, 28th May, 2005
Teachers Club
36 Parnell Square West
Dublin
Speakers: Finian McGrath TD, Robert Ballagh

EXCLUSIVE "GERRY ADAMS ATE MY HAMSTER"

Such is the media onslaught against Sinn Féin that you might not be surprised to see a headline like that. And if you believed that Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness had "prior knowledge" of the *Northern Bank* robbery, then you might not even blink.

People will believe what they want to believe, because without evidence that is all we can do. Lately, we have been asked to believe that the brutal murder of a Sinn Féin voter and father of two, Robert McCartney, by members of the IRA in a mêlée outside a Belfast bar, was a sanctioned IRA operation, while the torture and murder of Iraqi civilians by British soldiers in a controlled environment was neither sanctioned nor encouraged by their superiors. The murder of Robert McCartney commanded more media attention in its immediate aftermath than did the murders of Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson by the British state. Don't be surprised if soon we are asked to believe that the loyalist paramilitaries acted alone.

It's a pity that the Irish establishment isn't more consistent in its outrage at the murder of Irish citizens in the North, like that of Robert Hamill the nationalist father of two who was kicked to death by a loyalist mob while armed policemen looked on. We are also being asked to believe that the same police force should now be acceptable to the northern nationalist populace because they have changed their name, revamped their uniform and recruited a few Catholics. The past unwillingness of the PSNI to protect vulnerable nationalist areas, like the Short Strand, from loyalist attacks is evidence enough of their lack of reformation. The forthcoming marching season will be an opportunity for them to prove themselves.

The timely arrival of *Daily Ireland* on the scene can only be described as a breath of fresh air. Its efforts to raise the bar for Irish journalism have made it the target of vitriolic attacks not only from its competitors, but also from the Minister for Justice, Michael McDowell TD, who labelled it a "provo paper". There is obviously a political agenda at work here, but to what ends?

For the most part, there are those media commentators and politicians who simply hate Sinn Féin and want to stunt its growth. But there are others who genuinely believe that the time has come for the IRA to disband in order to get the peace process moving again, to once and for all put it up to unionism.

The IRA haven't helped matters with its insistence that the person responsible for the killing of Garda Jerry McCabe is a political prisoner, eligible for early release under the Good Friday Agreement. Surely, according to the IRA's own rules, this person should have been expelled. Whether on "active service" or "out for a drink", IRA volunteers should always be accountable for their actions. Expulsion would have placed the matter outside the peace process and perhaps allowed Garda McCabe's widow to move on. The prisoners' collective decision to place themselves outside negotiations is commendable.

The media's coverage of the McCabe Killing is hypocritical when you consider, for instance, the palpable lack of coverage given to the British Army's reinstating of Private's James Fisher and Mark Wright after they were granted early release in 1998 under the Good Friday Agreement. The two soldiers had murdered teenager Peter McBride while they were patrolling Belfast in 1992. They rejoined their regiment and were transferred to the *Irish Guards*; with full back pay for their time spent in prison.

The anger felt by the relatives of Garda Jerry McCabe, Robert McCartney, Peter McBride and Robert Hamill is understandable. But the treatment of these deaths by the Irish media and establishment has not been equal. The level of outrage and condemnation expressed seems to depend on who was responsible. The exploitation of people's grief is reprehensible.

The recent call from Gerry Adams for the IRA to disband is to be welcomed. The IRA will have to disband for Sinn Féin to give their allegiance to Bunreacht Na hÉireann. If the Irish government truly desires that "No military or armed force other than a military or armed force raised by the Oireachtas, shall be raised or maintained for any purpose whatsoever." (Article 15.6.2°) then it should declare its intent to never again, stand idly by.

The path that leads to constitutional politics has never been a smooth one for Irish republicans. In 1926, when De Valera emptied the Sinn Féin coffers and led a majority of its members to form Fianna Fáil there was a hysterical reaction. In 1932 the Free State government took out full-page advertisements on the front page of all the broadsheets for every day of the week leading up to the general election. Warning people that "the gunmen and communists" were voting for Fianna Fáil, the advertisement on the day of the election contained the following quote:

"It is said we killed people. We did kill. Killing is a hard thing and we make no apology for what we have done, and if circumstances arose we would kill again. It is said we took money from the banks. There were millions in the coffers of the Bank of Ireland, and who had a better right to it than the men who were fighting for their country?" – Mr. Dan Breen, Fianna Fáil candidate, 1932 general election.

Despite this, Fianna Fáil won the majority of seats and formed a government, declared a general amnesty and promptly released all the republican prisoners. Fianna Fáil maintained links with the IRA until 1934 and in 1936 declared them an illegal organisation. Dan Breen, the veteran IRA man, went on to represent the people of Tipperary as their T.D. until he died in 1967.

History demonstrates that anti-republican media campaigns don't work. They didn't stop Fianna Fáil from becoming the largest party in the south and they won't stop the rise of Sinn Féin north and south. Fianna Fáil should stop employing such tactics (which is causing upset to many of its grassroots supporters) and bring their brand of republicanism north. Becoming the largest all-Ireland party would further the cause of Irish unity. After all, you lead by example.

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.....

