



REBUILDING A NECESSARY ALLIANCE

The Democratic Unionist Party is seeking to destroy the 1998 Belfast agreement, or at the very least, to renegotiate it into oblivion!

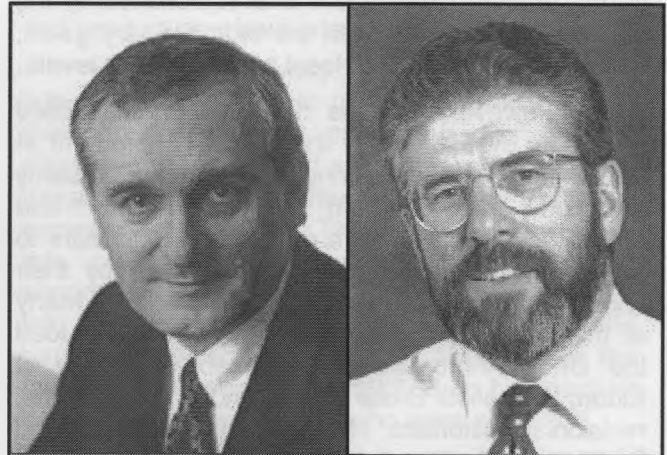
It is necessary to state this, because of the positive sounding noises being made by the Dublin and London governments about the prospect of an agreement between the DUP and Sinn Féin. Even more than the UUP, the DUP is a rabidly anti-Catholic party who's policies are aimed to prevent the political and economic advance of 45% of the North's population. DUP publications are still spewing out sectarian bile and racist stereotyping. Headlines such as "*Republican community feckless – its official!*" have appeared on the DUP's paper, *The New Protestant Telegraph*, which accused the nationalist community of being welfare parasites.

In our last issue we predicted that the DUP would try to spin out the talks process until after the Westminster election in 2005. The truth of this prediction now seems to have been accepted by the Irish government yet they and the British government refuse to take effective measures to prevent this from happening.

Since 1998 the Irish National Congress has repeatedly warned the Irish Government that the tragic flaw in the Belfast agreement is its lack of a contingency plan should Unionism fail to abide by its terms. They could lead the unionist horse to water but lacked either the carrot or stick to make it drink. The DUP are using the same strategy as Trimble's Unionists: procrastination, obstructionism, and seeking pretexts to exclude republicans from government.

Recently the deputy chairman of the North's Policing Board, Denis Bradley, suggested that nationalists may be forced to withdraw from policing boards and called for joint sovereignty unless urgent political progress is made. We believe that his comments should be considered seriously. At the moment when the only alternative to devolved power sharing is British Direct Rule, unionism has no incentive to compromise and moreover some of the inveterate sectarian bigots in the DUP have every incentive to engineer crises which will perpetuate the political inertia deliberately stretching the Republican communities patience to breaking point. It is important to also keep mind the continued campaign of violence and intimidation against Irish citizens and ethnic minorities by UDA and UVF gangs.

Let us be clear, nationalist Ireland's patience is not infinite, we have had enough of stop, go devolution. If the DUP is not serious about devolved power sharing they



An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD and Gerry Adams MP, the leaders of Irish republicanism. Republicans and nationalists of all shades must put aside petty party political rivalries and work closely together towards a common goal in the national interest.

must not be rewarded for their intransigence and joint sovereignty should be implemented immediately. If the Irish Government fails to take action along these lines there is a real danger that the entire Belfast agreement and the peace process upon which it is based could unravel with alarming speed.

It is clear that in recent years Irish nationalism has lost the initiative, which has driven this process forward. If disaster is to be averted this initiative must be regained. To achieve this requires two factors. Firstly an effective Irish American lobby must be reorganised which can deliver sympathetic assistance from an American government regardless of the party in office. Admittedly, this will be difficult due to the fact that the Americans and British are locked together in an unholy and bloody alliance of illegal war and aggression. Irish America is deeply divided.

Secondly Northern Nationalists and Republicans the Southern Irish Government and Irish America must put aside petty party political rivalries and work closely together towards a common goal in the national interest.

Finally, we would express the hope that a Sinn Féin / DUP administration could be formed, notwithstanding the extreme difficulties and given the appalling politics of the DUP. The prospect of republicans and the DUP seriously working together and sharing power could significantly advance the cause of national reunification by undermining the philosophical and psychological basis of unionism. However, if sectarians and securocrats are continually permitted to sabotage power sharing the possibilities are too frightening to contemplate.

APATHY IS THE ENEMY

As we approach the end of another year, perhaps along with planning the strategy for next year we in the INC should reflect on the year just past.

2004, from a political perspective, will be remembered for many events including the emergence of the DUP as the main unionist representatives, and the consolidation of Sinn Féin as the primary representative of nationalists in the six counties, coupled with the extraordinary gains, which they made at both local and European levels.

However, unless one was domiciled overseas, the debate by the Reform Movement at the Mansion House during the summer certainly attracted the attention of nationalists and republicans. This Reform group, which appears to be very well funded, as was evidenced by their choice of venue, and the very high profile of many of their speakers and supporters, which included the British Ambassador to Ireland Mr Stewart Eldon, journalists Bruce Arnold and Eoghan Harris, revisionist historians Ruth Dudley Edwards and Prof. John A Murphy, is engaged in both the distortion of our history and the vigorous pursuit of Commonwealth re-entry.

Many of us in the Irish National Congress, subsequent to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, believed that our function as a republican / nationalist non-party political group had somewhat diminished.

Whereas, many of the aims and objectives which we had pursued over the years had been achieved through intensive lobbying, protest marches, public meetings, leafleting campaigns, and most importantly through the INC newsletter, our work is far from over.

The Reform group represents a threat, not because of any great demand for a public debate on British Commonwealth re-entry, but because of the apathy of many Irish nationalists. The national executive of the INC will continue to challenge and oppose those who attempt to undermine this state, and those who are actively engaged in pursuing policies which are detrimental to our national identity. We need your support. You can lobby your local representatives and TD's, write letters to newspapers, and renew your yearly membership with the INC. Between us we can and will make a difference.

Nollaig faoi shéan is faoi mhaise.

– Tom Cooper,
Cathaoirleach,



Dear Editor,

Now that the referendum and various election decisions have been taken, I am writing to the various party Leaders on behalf of the ACRA Ground Rents Sub-Committee concerning the unfinished business of legislation to rid our community of Ground Rent.

ACRA has campaigned on this issue since 1973. The legislation won in 1978 did not abolish existing ground rents; it prevented the creation of new ground rents from the enactment of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rent) (No.1) Act, 1978.

The Fianna Fáil election promise of 1977 to "...abolish existing ground rents" has never been honoured.

In particular the evil of expired and expiring leases has never been tackled. This has produced a continuing drip of injustice, personal anxiety and loss for hundreds of householders still subjected by Irish law to the feudal ground rent code.

It is also a monument to the neglect by successive Governments of a vital and necessary element of legal reform. This neglect has been highlighted once again by the report of the All-Party Oireachtas Committee on The Constitution, which was presented to the Government on 7th April 2004. Will this report suffer the same fate as the Kenny Report on Building Land (March 1973)?

Ground Rents, as many a householder to their cost well knows, can create expense and delay during the conveyance of residential property. As the present Chief Justice, Mr Ronan Keane said while still a judge of the High Court "It is a truism that the sale of one ground rent in Dublin for 50 pounds can cause more nightmares to lawyers than an office block worth millions of pounds". This was stated in his judgement delivered on 2nd May 1986 in the case of Irish Life Assurance Company Ltd and Dublin Land Securities Ltd.

The present Programme for Government has promised to abolish ground rent on dwelling houses. When will this promise be implemented?

Yours Sincerely,

Tony O'Toole,
Chairman,
Ground Rent Sub-Committee,
ACRA,
Dublin 14.

Cathaoirleach targeted by Character Assassins

Stalwart INC activist and Cathaoirleach of the INC national executive, Tom Cooper has recently been singled out for personalised and vitriolic attacks in the national media.

In letters to the Sunday Business Post the Reform Movement's chairman Robin Bury likened Tom to a member of the DUP for opposing the Reform Movement's policy of the confederal reintegration of the Republic into the UK. This ludicrous policy proposed by a tiny and insignificant group of political eccentrics would never have received the disproportionate publicity it has, had it not been that two of the movement's patrons, Bruce Arnold and Ruth Dudley Edwards, are prominent journalists in Independent Group of newspapers. The Sunday Independent published no fewer than three pro-reform movement articles in one September edition.

Bruce Arnold also attacked Tom personally in a letter to the Irish Times.

Bury went on to claim that the British monarchy were not anti-Catholic despite the Act of Settlement which still prohibits anyone who is a Catholic or married to a Catholic from becoming monarch.

In an article by Kevin Myers in the Irish Times, in quite an unprecedented development, two low profile private citizens were identified and pilloried simply for having the audacity to express their own views and criticise those of 'Field-marshal' Myers in letters to the editor. For those of us who are familiar with Mr Myers gradual metamorphosis into a self-parodying caricature of Colonel Blimp this may come as no surprise. However, his accusation that his critics are "*aggressively anglophobic, self pitying and ill-informed*" seeking an opportunity to "*vent spleen*" and "*use attempts at reconciliation as simply an opportunity for yet another Anglophobic tribal sneer*" are simply unfounded.

Myers even contradicted his own arguments in his article by contrasting British atrocities during the Easter rebellion with the "*real ruthlessness*" of the German army's killing of 5000 Belgian and French civilians in the first months of the war, he then goes on to state "*if you seek to commemorate the virtuous war dead from a virtuous war in which there has been no atrocity, then you will stand at a non existent war memorial to a non existent war*". To use this logic should not the Belgian and French states officially commemorate the German war dead?

But here is where Myers missed the point. We oppose official Irish State participation in the British Legion commemoration not out of spiteful disrespect for those who fought and died but because such ceremonies are being used to rehabilitate an army who not only committed atrocities in the past but who are committing atrocities in the present and most likely will commit them in the future. The same army who tortured Mau Mau prisoners in Kenya in 1953, tortured Irish internees in Castlereagh in 1971 and are torturing Iraqi prisoners in Basra today.

The British army and establishment are infected with a chronic contagion which causes them to believe that they have the right to shamelessly torture and massacre, over and over around the world and then expect their victims to express their gratitude. The depth and severity of this contagion is better understood by INC supporters who were economically conscripted into the British Forces in the 1960's and who patriotically washed their hands of them with the outbreak of the conflict in 1969 than by armchair generals like Kevin Myers who were not.

The British state will never be cured of this contagion unless people with the courage and eloquence of Tom Cooper continue to take a stand and challenge militarist and imperialist cheerleaders like Myers and Bury.

– Paul McGuill
Runai

INC Members Protest Iraq War During Bush Visit in July



Above, Dublin: Gerry & Muriel McGowan, Paul McGuill, Tom Cooper, Angela O'Mahony and Siobhán Crudden
Below, Shannon: The McGowan clan





Re-Forming Ireland...Towards Britishness

About 100 people attended a meeting in Dublin's Mansion House on 18th September 2004, organised by the so-called Reform Movement, a grouping of 26 Co.'s based Unionists and British Nationalists who are working to restore the direct political links between the Irish state and the United Kingdom, which were progressively dismantled between 1921 and 1949.

The Mansion House meeting was highly significant, insofar as it represents probably the first attempt by British nationalism in many decades to re-organise open political activity in the 26 Co.'s. Indeed, the holding of such a meeting in the Mansion House, meeting place of the first Dáil, has esoteric, sinister and subversive undertones.

The title of the conference was "Re-Forming Ireland Towards Pluralism" and one of its aims, according to the programme leaflet, was "...to publicise and disseminate the idea of a post-nationalist Irish state". However, it is clear that Reform has a nationalist agenda of its own. It is obvious that what they are seeking is a post Irish nationalist state, and its replacement by an Irish political entity that would resemble something like New Zealand; a Commonwealth Dominion with strong links to the British Crown. Here is a summary of the main political demands of the Reform Movement:

- That the Irish state rejoin the British Commonwealth, thus restoring the link with the British Crown.
- Our National Anthem to be re-written
- Our flag, the ultimate symbol of Irish pluralism – the tricolour, to be integrated with the so-called "Cross of St. Patrick", an imperial flag and integral part of the Union Jack!
- Irish citizens to be allowed to receive titles and honours from the British monarch without having first to seek permission from the Irish government!
- The downgrading of the official status of the Irish Language
- Places for southern Unionists, like themselves, in Seanad Éireann
- Direct elections to the British-Irish Council of the Isles, the body set up under the Belfast Agreement in response to Unionist demands.

This last demand is astonishing, insolent even, for it challenges the very existence of the Irish state as a political entity separate from Great Britain. What they are seeking here in the long term is a parliamentary assembly for the whole "British Isles", which would also incorporate the Irish state. A new Act of Union under the guise of federalism!

Numerically speaking, Reform is insignificant in size with no prospect whatsoever of creating a mass base of popular support. It would be tempting therefore, to dismiss this group as a bunch of deluded cranks and malcontents. This would be a mistake. In this instance it is the ability to influence rather than size that matters. And Reform certainly has influence out of all proportion to its size.

Amongst those in attendance at the Mansion House were a number of leading figures in the world of Irish politics, academia, journalism and broadcasting. Scheduled speakers included:

- John Bruton TD *Fine Gael*, former Taoiseach. His speech on the day asserted that the 1916 Easter Rising should never have happened!
- Cllr. Michael Conaghan, *Labour*, Lord Mayor of Dublin
- David Neligan, formerly Department of Foreign Affairs.
- James Devenney Joint Chairman of *An Foras Teanga* and acting Chair of the *Ulster Scots Agency* in the 26 Co.'s

- Prof. Geoffrey Roberts, UCC Department of History and Coordinator of the Reform Movement conference
- Prof Brian Girvin, Department of Politics, University of Glasgow.
- Julitta Clancy MBE, "Meath Peace Group" and joint Chair of the "Guild of Uriel".
- Roy Garland, *Irish News* columnist and joint Chair of the "Guild of Uriel"
- Ruth Dudley Edwards, revisionist historian and *Irish Independent* columnist
- Bruce Arnold OBE, *Irish Independent* columnist
- Eoghan Harris, *Sunday Independent* columnist.
- Patsy McGarry, *The Irish Times* Religious Affairs correspondent.
- Cllr. Chris McGimpsey, Ulster Unionist Party
- Simon Partridge, "Independent Political Analyst"
- Stewart Eldon CMG, OBE. British Ambassador to Ireland, who spoke on the subject "The Council of the Isles, Achievements and Prospects"

The INC has written to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dermot Ahern TD, expressing our concern at the attendance and participation of the British Ambassador:

"...we would request two things from the Irish government. Firstly; that the British Embassy is made aware that a complaint has been made in relation to Ambassador Eldon's participation at the Reform Movement meeting. Secondly; that the Irish government publicly declare that there is absolutely no question of the Irish state permitting direct elections to any 'British Isles' assembly that could challenge the authority and sovereignty of Dáil Éireann"

Other than acknowledge receipt of our letter, there has been no reply from the Minister to date. We also wrote to the British Ambassador, Stewart Eldon:

"...Your presence at that particular session could lead many to the conclusion that the British government would be in broad agreement with the campaign of the Reform Movement...While we recognise that it is common practice for diplomats to attend political events, they would normally do so as observers..."

We received a prompt and polite response from the British Ambassador, which failed to adequately address any of concerns. Ambassador Eldon claimed that he was there in the spirit of debate and dialogue. He wished us well for the future, the best of British, no doubt.

The workings of the Reform Movement are largely centred on intense lobbying amongst the political establishment and manipulation of the mass media through their patrons. These arrogant agitators really believe that they can achieve many of their aims without any reference to the Irish people. They think they are dealing with a weak and malleable Irish political class. Unfortunately, in some respects they may well be right!

One of the more disturbing aspects of the Reform Movement is the way it portrays the Irish state as backward and repressive, particularly towards its minority Protestant population. Reform simply dismisses the enormous political and cultural changes that have occurred in the 26 Co.'s over the past few decades. This type of spurious and mendacious propaganda could cause very real difficulties for future Irish governments in their dealing with Unionists or the British government.

The INC is closely monitoring the activities and website of the so-called Reform Movement. We will work to ensure that this British nationalist fifth column does not achieve any of its aims and objectives.

HEIRS AND GRACES?

One of the most distasteful developments in post agreement Ireland has been the recent trend of the British monarch in awarding titles and awards to Irish citizens. It began predictably enough with the usual suspects, those fawning sycophants who have duly served Britain's interest in Ireland over the years by acting as the indigenous public relations officers for Britain's counter insurgency strategy.

As well as these, other Irish actors musicians and sports persons have been awarded similar titles. However, we believe an important distinction must be drawn between awards given to celebrities as recognition of their talent and awards given to key opinion formers and political figures in a neighbouring state as a potential pay off for services rendered. How would the British state and media react if we were to award honorary Irish citizenship to Ken Livingstone or Michael Mansfield?

Chris Hudson the man who founded the "Peace Train", who acted as go between for the UVF in talks with Irish Government and who called for the Orange Order to parade in Dublin in the wake of the three Quinn brothers incineration in Ballymoney in 1998, was awarded an OBE in 1999.

Tony O'Reilly, billionaire bean baron, the man who "bought" Eircom for less than the Irish people paid for it and who's Independent group of newspapers slavishly pedals the most mendacious British and unionist propaganda, was awarded a knighthood in 2001.

Bruce Arnold, Irish Independent columnist and patron of the southern unionist 'Reform Movement' was awarded an OBE in 2003. Although, by his own admission Mr. Arnold is not yet an Irish citizen, despite having lived here since 1961 (we really must do more to integrate refugees and asylum seekers).

Julitia Clancy of the "Meath Peace Group", co-chair of the "Guild of Uriel" and member of the "Reform Movement", had to settle for a more menial MBE in February 2004.

Former Fianna Fáil Senator Edward Haughey who donated £1million to the British Conservative Party was made a UNIONIST member of the House of Lords in 2004.

While most recently former Fianna Fáil Minister for Foreign Affairs, Michael O' Kennedy, was awarded the Order of St Michael and St George in July 2004, an award usually reserved for senior British diplomats.

Article 40.2 of Bunreacht na hÉireann compels all Irish citizens to seek governmental approval before accepting a title or award given by a foreign state. The fact that former Senators and ministers are allowed to accept foreign titles would indicate the Irish government has abdicated its responsibilities in this regard and no longer takes its constitutional duty's seriously. Fianna Fáil was so embarrassed by Dr Haughey's defection to the Ulster Unionists that they denied that he was ever a member. However, both the 1999 *Irish Almanac and*

Yearbook of Facts (Page 41) and Michael Gallagher's *How Ireland Voted 1989* (page 155) record Haughey as a Fianna Fáil Senator.

While naturally we ask what is the Irish governments motive in allowing this to happen one can equally ask what is the British Governments motive in making such awards. At the very least it shows an open contempt for the sovereignty of the Irish state as it treats our citizens as if they were her own. On a more sinister level one could ask what have these people done to deserve such awards from the British monarch. As an entrepreneur what services has Tony O Reilly rendered to the British State that Michael Smurifit has not? As a Minister what services has Michael O'Kennedy rendered that David Andrews has not?

Perhaps it's just a matter of time or perhaps they just have more common sense than to accept such awards. Such awards can also be seen as part of broader long-term strategy of cultural re-incorporation of this state into a British sphere of influence. Patriotic Irish political figures and opinion makers should have enough common sense and self respect to politely decline such offers of title and award from the British Monarch as Seamus Heaney did, if they don't the Irish government should use article 40.2 of the constitution to critically examine the reasons behind such awards before deciding whether or not to permit them. Finally it is the right of all Irish citizens to question and criticise the motives of those who accept such archaic badges of post-colonial subservience.

Canada Refuses to Bend the Knee



Compared with the supine and ridiculous position being adopted by the Irish State in the matter of British titles and honours, Canada, for example is showing more backbone.

The Dominion of Canada has always been a loyal and active member of the British Commonwealth. Because it is not a Republic, Queen Elizabeth is Canada's head of state. Nevertheless when it comes to matters of citizenship and sovereignty, Canada takes a very firm line. Despite the British ancestry of most of Canada's population no Canadian may accept a British knighthood or peerage.

In 2001, Canada was involved in a major diplomatic row with Britain because the Blair government had advised the Queen to award knighthood's to two Canadian citizens. Prime-minister Jean Chretien accused the British of insulting Canada, stating that such titles were "*not compatible with the ideals of democracy as have been developed in Canada.*" In 1999, billionaire newspaper owner Conrad Black was forced to consider renouncing his Canadian citizenship in order to be able to take a seat in the British House of Lords.

Irish democrats should demand that the Irish state adopt the same policy as Canada in this matter. Our self-respect as citizens in a Republic demands nothing less. Irish republican democracy is not compatible with the monarchy and the feudalist caste ridden system of subservience as practised in the British state.

The demand of the Irish National Congress is simple. No Irish citizen should be allowed accept a British "title of nobility" unless they are prepared to renounce their Irish citizenship and surrender their Irish passport.

THE CEASE-FIRES: 10 YEARS ON

Who would have thought 10 years after the jubilant scenes of the 31st of August 1994 with black taxies adorned with tricolours blaring their horns around West Belfast that we would still have British soldiers patrolling the streets and skies of nationalist areas and apathetic British ministers governing from Stormont.

Like the eyewitness who experienced the French revolution, Napoleonic wars and restoration of the Bourbons we too can say 'a lot has changed, a lot has remained the same'.

The Maze prison was closed, 444 political prisoners were released from jail in the North and 57 in the Republic under the terms of the Belfast agreement. However, attempts were made to end political status and segregation for the remaining dissident republican prisoners, which has led to prolonged intense protests.

In January 2001 the RUC was replaced by the PSNI however plastic bullets remain in use, sectarian attitudes persist and the increase in Catholic membership has been minuscule.

1997 saw the first meetings between the Sinn Féin leadership and a British Prime-minister and the leader of Ulster Unionists for 75 years. This was followed by the April 1998 Belfast agreement which amended Articles 2 & 3 of the Republic's constitution in return for a power sharing administration in the North and all Ireland bodies. However, due to unionist obstructionism these bodies were not set up until December 1999 and have been suspended on four occasions since then. The DUP have refused to participate in any cross border bodies and Sinn Féin were illegally excluded from them by the UUP. A Bill of Rights and parity of esteem still remain unfulfilled.

Sinn Féin have become the largest nationalist party in the North with their vote increasing from 12.5% in the 1993 to 23.5% in the 2003 while the DUP have become the largest unionist party jumping from 17.3% in 1993 to 25.7% in 2003.

The peace process has fragmented Unionism with repeated leadership heaves against the UUP's David Trimble and the defection of Geoffrey Donaldson and other MLA's to the DUP. While the unionist vote has been split between the UUP, DUP, UKUP, NIUP, PUP, UDP, UUC, UPRG and Conservatives, Sinn Féin has seen the election of its first Mayor of Belfast in 2002. However, although the combined nationalist vote reached 42.2% in 2004 they still remain entirely excluded from power while unionists can suspend institutions, delay elections and walk out of talks at will.

The IRA has decommissioned on three occasions and apologised to its civilian victims in July 2002. However, 15,000 British troops remain in the North, twice as many as are stationed in Iraq, the reason for this is the 'security situation'. Perhaps they have not noticed but the 'security situation' in Iraq is a little more precarious! Britain's other 'normalisation' measures proceed at the pace of an arthritic snail with 10 out of 19 watch towers and 8 out of 32 army bases removed in 10 years. This of course does not take into account the number of bases, which have been expanded and reinforced.

Since the 1994 cease-fires 91 people have been killed by loyalists, 89 by republicans, 6 by security forces

and one by criminals in political related violence. The republican figure includes the 29 people killed in the Omagh bomb in August 1997, drug-dealers executed by Direct Action Against Drugs, and those killed during the breakdown of the IRA cease-fire between February 1996 and July 1997.

The loyalist figure includes those killed in the various inter loyalist feuds between the UVF, LVF and UFF which saw Billy Wright expelled from the UVF in 1996 and Johnny Adair expelled from the UDA in 2002. However, the similar number of fatalities disguises the extent of the loyalist onslaught on the nationalist community. Since 1997 loyalists have made over 870 pipe bombs and have plumbed new depths of depravity in their attacks on Drumcree, Harryville, Holy Cross and Short Strand. Between January 1996 and May 2004 loyalists were responsible for 1083 punishment attacks while republicans were responsible for 613.

While the INC wholeheartedly supports the peace process the pace of change has been disappointing as has been the absence of debate on issues such as unification, sovereignty and self-determination. To coin a phrase, the last ten years could be described as "a lot done, a lot more to do".

LOYALIST RACISM

Recent years have seen an explosion in racist attacks on the 30,000 strong ethnic minority community in the North.

Between April 2002 and July 2004 there have been 828 racist incidents most, but not all, in loyalist areas. Between April 2003 and April 2004 there were 453 racist attacks across the North, 147 or more than a quarter were in South Belfast. Between April and July of this year there were 149 racist incidents 84 of which took place in loyalist areas of South Belfast. The UVF was behind the circulation of a racist leaflet in South Belfast entitled "Yellow Invasion" which claimed "The influx of yellow people into Donegal Pass has done more damage that 35 year of the IRA's recent campaign".

That loyalism has added a new racist string to its sectarian bow will not come as a surprise to many given its supremacist ideology and history. Links between loyalism and the British far right are long established, whether it is the articles lifted straight out of 'Spearhead', the National Front paper, into 'Combat' the UVF magazine in the 1970's or Loyalist support for the racist Rhodesian and South African regimes in the 1970's and 1980's. In 1974 a National Front member, John Gadd, was convicted for his part in a loyalist arms smuggling route from Canada.

In 1980 Jackie Irvine and Joe Bennet of the UVF met representatives of the Flemish fascist organisation VMO. Many will remember that the UFF's Johnny 'Mad Dog' Adair and many of his C Company started out as a neo Nazi skinhead band called 'offensive weapon'.

In 1983 the 200 strong Shankill based 'NF Skins' beat to death a Catholic Patrick Barkley. Many members of this fascist gang were later recruited by the youth wings of the UDA and UVF.

In May 1993 the UDA's London commander, Frank Portinari, and a neo Nazi Combat 18 member, Eddie Whicker, were arrested while trying to smuggle hand guns to loyalists in the North. More recently far right groups like the BNP, Combat 18 and White Wolves have tried to establish roots in loyalist heartlands across the North and a branch of the White Nationalist Party has been established in Ballymena.

The INC vigorously opposes racism and sectarianism in equal measure and will seek to expose the links between them as well as the supremacist ideology, which underlies both.

BUNREACTH na hEORPA

Ráiteas ó Chomhaontas na Síochána is na Neodrachta / Peace and Neutrality Alliance.

D'eisigh Comhaontas na Síochána is na Neodrachta (CSN) preasráiteas le déanaí inar léiríodar a míhástacht le Bunreacht na hEorpa, mar a ghlaotar ar Chonradh nua an Aontais Eorpaigh.

Éilíonn CSN / PANA ar Rialtas na hÉireann comhghnás (protocol) a lorg sa Chonradh, fé mar at:á ag An Danmhairg, a scaoilfeadh an tír seo ó na cúinsí míleata agus ó na costaisí míleata a léirítear sa cháipéis.

Mura bhfaightear comhghnás ar a laghad, deir CSN / PANA go mbeidh siad ag dul i mbun feachtais in aghaidh na Bunreachta Eorpaigh pé uair a chuirfeadh í os comhair na ndaoine i reifreann. Deir CSN / PANA go mba chóir go dtionólfáí reifreann in Éirinn ina iomláine, 32 contae, ar an lá ceanna agus chuige sin go mbeidh an eagraíocht ag gníomhú ó thuaidh trína craobh nua i mBéal Feirste.

Seo a leanas roinnt de na nithe a chuireann imní ar CSN / PANA maidir leis an mBunreacht Eorpach:

- Comhchosaint (Alt 1.40):

Ní thugtar aitheantas ar bith do na stáit atá neodrach laistigh d'Aontas na hEorpa. Ní hamháin san ach luaitear go soiléir go gcaithfidh polasaithe cosanta na baillstáit bheith ag teacht le polasaithe NATO! De réir dealraimh níl ról ar bith ann san Aontas Nua do stát neodrach a thuilleadh. N'fheadar cén fáth?

- Gnóthaí Eachtracha (Alt 4.27):

Beidh "Sár-Aire" Ghnóthaí Eachtracha i bhfeighil ghnóthaí eachtracha an Aontais Nua ionas go mbeidh ar chumas an Aontais "labhairt le guth amháin". Is beag seans a bheidh ag tír faoi leith, tír bheag in ainm is a bheith neodrach ach go háirithe, polasaithe eachtracha neamhspleácha a chur chun cinn lena leithéid.

- Armáil (Alt 40.3):

Beidh ar na baillstáit uile "gach áis míleata agus sibhialach a chur ar fáil do chosaint agus do shlándáil an Aontais". Beidh sé de chúram ar na baillstáit go léir freisin "cur lena féadarachtaí míleata". Fad is ata ciorruithe agus gearradh siar ag tarlú sna seirbhísí poiblí uile sa tír, go háirithe in Oideachas agus Leigheas, beidh orainn céadadán mór (ní fios cé mhéad) de chiste na tíre a chaitheamh ar airm is ar amlón!

- Údarás Thaighde Airm is Dhéantús Airm (Alt 40.3):

Cuirfeadh an tÚdarás thuasluaite ar bun a mbeidh sé mar chúram aige "teicneolaíocht mhíleata agus

tionsclaíocht mhíleata an Aontais a fheabhsú is a láidriú". Is amhlaidh go mbeidh Aontas Nua na hEorpa réidh amach anseo chun socrúithe míleata a lorg i gcúrsaí idirnáisiúnta seachas trín síocháin ná trín chomhoibriú (mar adeir ár mBunreacht féin). Ach gan amhras is cinnte go mbeidh monarcha airm nó dhó le lonnú i nDáilcheantar nó dhó in Éirinn freisin!

Bíodh eagla orainn. ..Bíodh imeagla orainn.

– **Fergus Mac Aogáin,**
Coiste Naisiunta CSN / PANA.
Meitheamh 2004.

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 bhrí sin, táimid ag brath oraibhse, ár léitheoirí, go háirithe an chuid díobh go bhfuil an Ghaeilge ar thoil agaibh, slíocht a scríobh. Má chuirfidh sibh ábhar oiriúnach chughainn, beidh an teagarthóir thar a bheith sásta é a fhoilsiú.

The INC supports the development of the Irish language. We would love to be in a position to include an article (or even a short paragraph) in Irish in each issue of *INC News*. The main problem is that none of our regular contributors feel competent to tackle such an article. The editor would be overjoyed to receive items in Irish for publication in future issues of *INC News*.

INC TELEPHONE NUMBERS

If you need to contact the INC by telephone, you may do so through the following numbers:

(061) 44 07 54 / 087 62 87 065

Both numbers have playback, so if your call is not answered immediately, you may leave a message and, if necessary, the INC will return your call.

WRITE FOR THE INC NEWS!

The INC invites its readers to submit letters or articles concerning the national question and other relevant topics. Articles should be under 1500 words, typed or written clearly and posted to:

Irish National Congress,

P.O. Box 2814,

Dublin 7.

or emailed to:

inc32cne@eircom.net

www.inc.ie



Get Well Soon Michael

The INC would like to wish founding member and veteran INC activist, Michael Mullen, a speedy recovery. Michael is one of our most active members. For the past 14 years he has involved himself fully in every campaign organised by the INC.

POSTAL PROBLEMS

Since 1990, the Irish National Congress has endeavoured to hold two members draws annually. Easter and Christmas.

The response to these draws by you, our members and supporters, has always been extremely generous. Unlike so many of those pseudo peace groups, the INC is not registered as a charity. Because of this, we don't receive funding from the Irish government, the EU or indeed, the British government, which makes generous contributions to many of those "peace" groups, enabling them to employ full time staff. The INC is a republican / nationalist pressure group and we would never pretend to be anything less in order to access such funding. We depend entirely on you.

The postal dispute at Easter hit us hard, most members didn't receive their newsletter and raffle tickets until well after the draw was due to take place and it is an impossible task to sell tickets to a raffle that are past their sell by date. Some members contacted us by phone when they hadn't received their newsletter and advised us to write to members and let them know that the draw was postponed. Unfortunately and ironically, the largest cost incurred by the INC is postage and we simply couldn't afford another mail-out without a return from the raffle. Although a notice was posted on our website informing members of the situation, the return from the raffle was insufficient and we were unable to produce a summer edition of *INC News*.

In the event of another postal dispute we would ask our members to do their best to sell the tickets, you can advise people that the draw has been postponed and that details of this have been posted on our website, www.inc.ie. As an extra precaution, there is no Christmas cake as a prize and there will be no perishable goods in the Christmas hamper.

The INC National executive is committed to maintaining and rebuilding the INC as an effective

lobbying organisation to defend and advance our aims and objectives of Freedom, Unity and Peace. For our part, we will ensure that your contributions are spent wisely. We have no expensive overheads like office rent to pay and we will only pay out travelling and other expenses to our activists on INC business in cases of extreme hardship.

Much of the day-to-day costs of running the INC; postage, phone bills, travel, etc. are borne directly by the National Executive members, who work in an entirely voluntary capacity.

At every AGM, a full statement of the accounts is published. Once again, we would like to thank you for your continuing support for the work of the Irish National Congress.

EASTER RAFFLE RESULTS

The winners of the Easter 2004 raffle *eventually* were:

1st prize (An Easter Cake): Michael Mullen, York St. Dublin

2nd prize, (An Easter Hamper): Gerry McGowan, Glasnevin, Co. Dublin.

3rd Prize, (bottle of spirits): Tom Wall, Whitegate Co. Cork.


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

INC CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2004

The prizes for this years raffle are:

1. A Christmas Hamper
2. A Case of Wine.
3. A 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 8th December. The draw will take place on Saturday 11th December. As ever your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated as this money is essential to the I.N.C.'s survival.



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE INC,
FILL IN THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO:**

**Irish National Congress, PO Box 2814, Dublin 7.
MEMBERSHIP FEE €10 WAGED / €5 UNWAGED**

Name.....

Address.....

e-mail.....

**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 M HAISE**