

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSLETTER

EOLAS

IRISH REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

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**"WORKERS AND SMALL FARMERS
THE RIGHTFUL OWNERS OF
THE WEALTH OF IRELAND"**

TOMAS MAC GIOLLA.

SINN FÉIN ARD FHEIS

DECEMBER 1974

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY TOMAS MAC GIOLLA,

PRESIDENT OF SINN FEIN,

to the 69th Ard Fheis (Congress) held at the Town and Country Club in Dublin on 29th, 30th November and 1st December 1974.

Beirim failte romhaibh uilig cuig na hArd Fheise seo, a theactai, a chuirteoiri, a bhreathnadoiri o eagraiochtaí thall is i bhfus, agus a mhuintir an phreas. Ta se i gceist agam san oraid seo breathnu siar ar cursaí na mbliana ata imighthe thart agus go mor mor iniucadh a dheanamh ar an staid ina bhfuilimid fe lathair o thaobh an naisiun de agus o tha thaobh na heagraiochta seo 'gainne de. Ta suil agam ag a deire go mbeidh na polasaithe ata ag Sinn Fein nios soleire in ar naigne agus go mbheimid nios cinnte dearbhtha go bhfuil na polasaithe sin ceart.

The appalling situation which has developed in the North and in particular in Belfast must surely dominate the minds of everyone at this Ard Fheis, especially our delegates from the 6 Counties. The most depressing aspect is the apparent hoplessness and the fatalism with which people are beginning to speak of the inevitability of civil war. As the assassins increase their number of killings and counter killings of working class men and women and as thousands in Belfast are virtually interned in their own homes many are saying we are already in a civil war. But this is not true. What we are witnessing is not civil war but a reign of terror perpetrated by small groups, who hope to foment civil war.

There are three forces who believe civil war will aid them in their objectives, William Craig and his fascist S.S. who want a totalitarian state, the Provisionals who see it as their last desperate hope of survival and the British Generals who see it as the final solution to the Irish problem achieved with an economy of British lives. Let there be no doubt where the primary responsibility lies, it is on the British Army. It is they who have constantly goaded the people by smashing their homes, arresting, torturing and murdering innocent people. It was their undercover squads who planned and organised and carried out the wave of sectarian killings two years ago and it was they who called them off.

The British Army is now in total control in Belfast, and the Generals make the military and political decisions. The people are living under Martial Law. We have not got the same hard evidence of the actual participation of British Army groups in the present wave of killings as we had two years ago, but there is ample evidence to show that they encourage the assassins and allow them a free hand.

In spite of the strength of the forces who are pushing for civil war I do not agree that civil war is inevitable. I believe the mass of the people both Protestant and Catholic do not want and would not participate in a civil war and would in fact actively fight to avert it. They must however, be mobilised and I still believe, as Sinn Fein has repeatedly said, that only the Trade Union movement could do so. Joint action by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the British Trade Union Council could gain the support of all political groups for a mobilisation of masses of workers to halt sectarian confrontations and the drift to civil war.

Once begun, such a movement could be a major force for peace by stopping the bombers and assassins, getting the British troops back to barracks and getting the internees released. In such a situation normal political action would become possible for the achievement of other objectives.

The growth of sectarian violence and the absence of political thought and action in the North has led to increasing strength of fascism. On the loyalist side there were many hopeful signs last spring. After the U.W.C. strike there were those who recognised the need for working-class unity, the need to act against sectarianism at all levels of society, and the need to push aside those such as Craig, Paisley and West whose power depended on sectarianism and division of workers. However those people have been outmanoeuvred during the summer and have been silenced by the fear engendered by the massive sectarian hatred which has grown vampire-like on the blood of the victims of the bombs and assassins bullets.

It takes extraordinary courage now for any loyalist to express progressive working-class views. Some who did in the past were quickly eliminated. Fascist terror now reigns under the cold ruthless leadership of William Craig who has already planned out the establishment of a fascist totalitarian state in Northern Ireland. He sees civil war as the only way to create the necessary chaos out of which he feels he can triumph. On the republican side progressive politics have also been fighting an uphill battle against the fascist tactics of the right. The Provisionals continue to do the dirty work by keeping up the terror tactics but the leading forces of the right, while dissociating themselves from the Provisionals, welcome their presence and use them as a weapon to beat down the progressive forces of the left.

The events which took place in Belfast a couple of weeks ago following the occupation of the Glen Road school was a clear example of the strength and organisation of right wing opinion among a section of the Roman Catholic community. It also demonstrated how they operate under British Army, Provisional and clerical cover and license just as Craig's Vanguard operates under U.D.A. cover and license. Here was an example of a group of youngsters attempting to carry out political agitation on a subject of vital importance to the future of all the people of Northern Ireland - education. They were carrying no guns or bombs. Neither were they carrying sticks or any other weapons and they wore no masks.

When B.B.C. cameras appeared on the scene they unfortunately panicked and covered their faces to save themselves from possible internment. It was a very foolish move politically but it seemed to them a very practical precaution as internment is a very real and practical thing in Belfast. Other than this their behaviour was exemplary. They carried nothing more lethal than a set of demands for educational reform such as fully integrated education, school councils of parents/teachers/pupils, abolition of corporal punishment and use of schools by local communities at night, weekends and during school holidays.

One would expect that this political action by young people in Belfast would be commended as being at least a better outlet for the energy of youth than planting car bombs in shopping areas or duffle bag bombs in pubs or just shooting people at random in the street. This has been the sole activity for youth provided by the Provos, or the U.D.A./U.V.F.

But instead of praise they were met with the most massive condemnation by church, state and mass media that has ever been witnessed in Belfast, culminating in a highly organised meeting of 1,000 teachers, some of whom were known Provisionals. Those who tried to speak for the young Republicans action were met with shouts and footstamping and were refused permission by the chair to express their views. They eventually left the meeting in disgust. This was fascist emotionalism at its worst. The meeting was fed with a series of lies and distortions and never once discussed the demands made by the youths.

All the media gave extensive coverage to the meeting but had refused to publish any of a series of four statements and a stencilled leaflet issued by the republicans. The whole operation was an exercise to preserve right wing control of education. The meeting of the teachers and those who organised them and all the media of communication were clearly telling the young people involved "go and plant bombs or assassinate people - such activities are more acceptable than spreading dangerous ideas which might upset our cosy sectarian set up." There were no such highly organised meetings by these people to condemn internment or the bloody Sunday massacre or the constant murders and harassment and occupation of schools and interruption of education by the British Army. They organised no such meetings to condemn the destruction of Belfast and the deaths resulting from it, or the bombing of Claudy, Coleraine, Portglenone or Birmingham, or to condemn the present wave of cold-blooded killings.

I have spoken at length on this incident because I think it illustrates more than anything else the growing strength of the reactionary forces among the Roman Catholic community to complement the dominance of reaction in the Protestant community. Sectarianism of the most vicious kind is again being copper fastened on both communities like a cage to enslave them. Every bomb and every assassins bullet spreads further hatred, bigotry and fear, the unholy trinity on which fascism thrives. Can this be called a struggle for freedom?

Having destroyed the possibility of developing progressive policies in the North which might gain international support for the struggle against British Imperialism, the Provisionals now are apparently extending their bombing campaign to England. The bombs and terror will have precisely the same effect there. They will strengthen the right-wing forces of reaction and destroy the possibility of getting support from the British working class for the struggle in Ireland. Is this their purpose? It seems clear that there are some sinister forces at work driving the Provisionals to do precisely what Brigadier Kitson wants done both in Ireland and Britain.

On behalf of this Ard Fheis I now call on those members of the Provisionals who can see the terrible damage they are doing to the nation and all its people, to force their leaders to call off all bombing campaigns. I would also appeal to all progressive organisations and especially the Trade Union movement to declare their opposition to the Provos campaign and to exert maximum pressure on them to cease. The same call and the same pressure should be made on the rank and file of the U.D.A. and U.V.F. Force your leaders to call off the assassination campaign. Otherwise you must be regarded as totally fascist organisations which are the deadly enemies of all workers.

From the time the Provisionals were formed 5 years ago we constantly predicted the disasters which would ensue from their activities. Few listened to us then. Even when their fortunes were at their peak in July 1972 when all the news media who now rush to condemn them were hanging on their every word, I was predicting, in Carrickmore, their inevitable downfall and worse still the downfall of the Irish people's struggle for survival as a nation if they pursued the course they were on.

As the Provisionals and their propagandists in the press such as Tim Pat Coogan, were predicting victory, I was saying "we are not on the brink of victory but on the brink of sectarian disaster and sell-out". It was clear to us that once the Provisionals had smashed the people's unity and driven them off the streets they had done a major job for the British Army and Government. The mass of the people were no longer involved in the struggle and as I pointed out in 1972 a war weary people who were not committed to the struggle "would blindly opt for peace at any price - and then the paper hero will become a paper monster overnight, isolated and remote". Two years later that prediction is only too true.

I shed no tears for the Provisionals in their pangs but unfortunately, like Hitler in Germany, they seem determined to bring the whole house down with them. Waiting in the wings to climb upon the ashes are those who conceived, bore and suckled the Provisionals with money, guns and propaganda, led by Charles Haughey who has become a millionaire by ruthlessly exploiting the workers of this country. He must be pleased with the development of events since he launched the Provos in 1969. At that time the growing strength of the left in both North and South was a grave threat to him and all other exploiters in Ireland.

The Provisionals and their ultra-left supporters such as P.D. in Ireland and the I.S. and I.M.G. in Britain, have changed all that, so that the left is in retreat and the forces of right wing fascism are rampant. All they need is the charismatic figure behind whom they can rally. In the North they have William Craig; in Britain they have Enoch Powell; and in the South the pseudo republican Haughey waits for the opportune moment to step into the breach as the ruthless strong-man to lead the right to totalitarian victory. The mass media who have carefully nurtured the Provos as heroes until their job was done and now damn them as monsters although they are only doing precisely the same thing as they were doing in 1971, have also carefully and magically brought Haughey back from political death almost to the point of being leader of Fianna Fail and a possible future Prime Minister although Haughey himself has contributed absolutely nothing to the political, social, economic or cultural life of any part of this country since 1970. I suppose this only proves once again the great power of the press, radio and T.V. or the gullibility of the Irish people.

Another factor which caused considerable damage to left wing politics in Ireland was the fact that Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien spoke in the name of Labour Party. He has consistently refused to be bound by Labour Party policy as accepted at Annual Conference. His concept of democracy is that the lower classes may be given the right to vote him into power but they have no right to tell him what to do or say. He has even succeeded in persuading Mr. Corish to accept this concept when he declared that the Parliamentary Party would not be bound by decisions made at Annual Conference. While O'Brien speaks for the Labour Party we must assume that his policies are Labour policies no matter what the Party decides.

The Labour formula for peace therefore is one of total surrender. O'Brien proposes and therefore Labour proposes that the Irish people should abandon their claim to nationhood, should accept British overlordship and British territorial claims in Ireland and allow her full freedom to exploit our resources, shape our lives and decide our future destiny. In O'Brien terms, and therefore in Labour Party terms, all British violence is justified and all Irish resistance is unjustified. The only peace for Ireland is the peace of slavery or death.

One is not surprised at such sentiments coming from Fine Gael, the party of the rancher and business class. No eyebrows are raised when Garrett Fitzgerald indicates that he regards Irish nationhood as irrelevant, when Richië Ryan strikes a body blow against the Irish language or even when Liam Cosgrave declares in Oxford that the day of the Nation State is gone. But when workers and small farmers, who are the rightful owners of the wealth and resources of this land, and who, in the words of Connolly, have no ties with Empire, when they hear such ideas expressed as the voice of Labour they become disillusioned. Many become ensnared by the pseudo socialism and pseudo republicans of the right. There was never more need for a strong united political movement of the left in Ireland, but it was seldom, if ever, in such a disarray.

A grave crisis, if not disaster faces both workers and small farmers in North and South. This is brought about by two major factors: (1) The decision of the underdeveloped and exploited nations to take control of their raw materials and sell them at an economic price to the major imperial powers whose economies were dependent on cheap raw materials. Those who lived in affluence at the expense of starving millions in Asia, Africa and South America are now faced with rampant inflation. America is already threatening to launch further wars to gain control once more of the sources of these raw materials. Wars have always been capitalism's cure for economic crises. As an underdeveloped and exploited nation Ireland's place is shoulder to shoulder with the other 3rd World countries where each would help the other. Instead we have been tied closely to the highly industrialised imperialist powers and linked our economy with theirs. Thus we will suffer for their crimes, with collapse of industries, loss of jobs and lower living standards. (2) The second factor causing the crisis to workers and small farmers is our membership of the E.E.C. Apart from the fact that our membership increases the dangers we face from inflation and shortage of raw materials the very policies being implemented by the EEC are directly inimical to the interests of our workers and farmers.

The Free Trade policy combined with the Rome Treaty leaves Irish Industry facing total destruction of its home market on which 75% of workers jobs depend. The textile, footwear, furniture, confectionary and car assembly industries, to name a few, are facing weekly closures and redundancies as a result of which 15,000 industrial jobs have already been lost this year. It is expected that by the end of January 100,000 people will be unemployed in the 26 Counties and 40-50,000 in the 6 Counties. The closures and redundancies are not due to the world crisis - they are due solely to the Free Trade Agreement with Britain and to our membership of the E.E.C. These prevent us from using the powers which any normal state should have of protecting its citizens right to work and earn a decent standard of living in their own country. Our job now is to give every assistance to the Trade Union movement to force the government to defy the E.E.C. and the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement by protecting the home market for native industries.

The farmers are also facing the bleakest winter they have experienced since the mid '30s. The costs of feedstuffs, fertilisers and machinery has risen enormously, they have become indebted to the banks at the advice of the I.F.A. and the Government and the price of their main product, young and store cattle, has collapsed completely. Thousands will not survive and will be driven on to a labour market where no jobs exist. The farming crisis can not be blamed on world recession or the oil crisis or inflation. It is due solely and entirely to the operation of the EEC Agricultural policy. It is no consolation to the small farmer now for us to say "we told you so". But it is important that we recall to them what we did say and what their own farming organisations said before entry to the E.E.C.

We do not blame farmers for taking the word of the I.F.A. rather than our word particularly when Maher was backed up by all the forces of the State including the civil servants in the Department of Agriculture. But now, with their backs to the wall and the false promises sticking in the throats of Government and I.F.A., farmers must reassess the whole E.E.C. position.

I have been publicly campaigning against the E.C.C. since September 1961 and in the two years before the referendum in May 1972 I spoke at meetings all over the country North and South, from Castletownberehaven in West Cork where I had to wait for the fishermen to come home at midnight, to Queen's University, Belfast, where I was saved from the clutches of the British Army by student barricades. I covered more ground than any other speaker for or against the Common Market and today I would not change one word of what I wrote or spoke. Furthermore, I defy any of the pro Common Market-ers or anyone who attended those meetings to challenge any assertion I made in regard to the effect of the E.E.C. on Industry, Agriculture or fisheries or on the very future existence of the Nation. Is there anyone in Fianna Fail, Fine Gael or the I.F.A. who can say this?

Perhaps farmers are now beginning to realise that the Mansholt plan was no joke. It is in fact the very cornerstone of E.E.C. policy. Hundreds of thousands of farmers in the 9 E.E.C. countries must be got out of farming. Therefore the whole Common Agricultural Policy and every directive from the Commissioners for Agriculture is designed towards this end. The 26 Counties Mansholt Plan, or Directive 159, is called the Farm Moderation scheme. It divides farmers into three categories; 1, Commercial Farmers (approx 15,000) who already have it made. 2, Development Farmers (approx. 35,000) who will make it when they have grabbed the land from category 3, and 3, Transitional Farmers (approx. 110,000) who will be given 6 years to live and then their land is up for grabs. The I.F.A., through the Farmers' Journal, have issued a special booklet called "A new tomorrow" recommending the virtues of this scheme.

When directive 159 is applied to the 6 Counties in 1975 approx. 26,000 farmers there will be in the Transitional category. Most farmers believe that this master plan has not yet been put into effect in Ireland because, apart from announcing it, the government here have done nothing further. Farmers seem to think that the present crisis is temporary and has nothing whatever to do with directive 159. I appeal to them to believe me at least in this instance when I tell them it has everything to do with it. Who is the real sufferer this winter? The transitional farmer of course. He is the one who is now being forced out of farming through deliberate economic pressures.

All of the E.E.C. assistance to farmers - beef incentive schemes, intervention, green pound - is designed to go into the pockets of the ranchers and larger farmers. It is carefully designed to ensure that very little help gets down to the man they want to force out of farming.

I would also appeal to transitional farmers in the 26 Counties to look at their own organisation - the I.F.A. How many transitional farmers are in the leadership of the I.F.A. or on any of their major sub-committees on grain, livestock etc, or in control of the I.F.A. owned marts or the I.F.A. owned meat factories. The I.F.A. is now a major business organisation in the control of the commercial farmers. They are the real beneficiaries of the E.E.C. and it was they who persuaded farmers to vote them in. Now they skim off millions as cattle fatteners who get all the beef subsidies and again as owners of the meat factories they make further enormous profits. No wonder they mount a major campaign against income-tax on farmers - they are the only ones who would have to pay.

The farmer who takes his store cattle to the mart and is forced to sell at a 50% loss should ask himself who is buying his cattle - who is robbing him. He will find it is not Mr. Mansholt or Mr. Clinton but his neighbouring commercial farmer - men like the Brutons or the Quinns who control the I.F.A. Livestock Committee. These are the profiteers who buy cheap by rigging the marts and sell dear at the guaranteed price for fat cattle.

These leeches and land grabbers are now organising the small farmers to demand a subsidy from the government. Certainly in this crisis the government must be forced to give subsidies to small farmers to tide them over this winter. But the primary demand must be for a guaranteed economic price at the marts for all store cattle. The buyers must be forced to pay such a price if the transitional farmers organise to defend themselves they can force buyers to pay an economic price. If they recognise their real class enemy, the ones who are robbing them and waiting to grab their holdings then I think they will fight as Davitt fought them and will defeat the E.E.C. land grabbers as they defeated British landlordism. Small farmers and industrial workers must fight together to protect themselves from E.E.C. policies. Their interests are not opposed but complementary. They are the producers of wealth and the rightful owners of all the wealth and sources of production of this country. The exploiters are few but highly organised; the exploited are many but disorganised. They need but to organise to win.

As well as fighting their own particular battles for survival against the E.E.C. farmers and workers must involve themselves in the struggle to keep control of the great mineral oil and gas resources which are presently being farmed out to major multi-national companies. Every mining lease and every petroleum lease issued is robbing the workers and farmers of the possibility of future prosperity. Mineral and oil mean jobs - thousands of new jobs not alone in production, smelting and refining but in major new industries in synthetic fibres, textiles, plastics and chemicals. They also mean cheaper fuel, cheaper products of all kinds plus far higher standards of living, welfare, health and education. All hope of this will be lost both for us and for future generations if workers and farmers do not fight now to keep control of our resources in state

hands. The fight to protect our natural resources is one that concerns all our people North and South. If we hold them all will benefit from the major industrialisation which will follow. Few will then be interested in clinging on to some miserable handouts from an increasingly impoverishable Britain.

Our policies on political, social and economic issues have been clearly shown to be consistent and correct. We were correct in our civil rights policy and its effects on Unionism, in our clear and consistent opposition to the Provisionals who deliberately turned the struggle into futile militarism. We were correct when we oppose the "abolish Stormont" cry of the PD and advocated a Bill of Rights instead. We were correct in our total opposition to the E.E.C. and in our prediction of its effects. We were correct in asserting for the past three years that the fight for control of our natural resources was going to be more important for the future of all our people than the concentration on flags and symbols in the 6 Counties. The North will still be there in 10 years time but in that decade our great wealth could be irretrievably lost.

In spite of all the distortions and lies about us and our policies, in spite of all the restrictions placed upon us and the lack of fair reportage in the communications media, in spite of the deliberate confusion created by the acceptance of the right of a breakaway group to use our name and thus have us blamed for their disastrous anti-republican policies, despite all of this the common people instinctively know that we are in the true tradition of Tone, of Connolly and of Mellows. They know that we stand by the interests of the common people, that we fight their fight, that we do not resort to lies and deceit and that we are consistent and honest.

This instinct is reflected in the increasing electoral support we have gained at each election both North and South in the past couple of years. We are the only political party with widespread organisation throughout the whole country and with elected representatives in both 6 and 26 County States. We are a National Party in the true sense. In both states we are clearly establishing ourselves as the party of the workers and small farmers.

In the North we had councillors elected in the major cities of Belfast, Derry and Newry as well as in rural constituencies in Derry, Tyrone and Armagh. In the Westminster elections in October of this year the republican candidates, although fighting against the tide of sectarian politics preached by Loyalists and S.D.L.P., received a very encouraging vote particularly in Mid-Ulster and Armagh. This vote clearly showed that we are in a strong position to win seats in the forthcoming Convention elections. We are determined that seats shall be won and we are already doing the preparatory work to ensure that the true voice of republicanism shall be heard above the din of murderous, saracens, crashing bombs and assassins guns.

In the South the Sinn Fein organisation has also made steady progress. The Local Government elections in June, although contested only on a limited basis showed that we had in fact seriously underestimated the strength of our support by both urban workers and small farmers. A more serious electoral offensive in both Dublin and Cork could have resulted in the capture of a number of seats on both these Corporations. In most areas of the State we are now the 3rd largest party. This strength was further proved

by the tremendous vote received by our candidate, Joe Sherlock, in the Cork North East bye election. Those who hadn't read the signs in the local elections were surprised by the vote he received and tried with the assistance of R.T.E. to downgrade it as being a personality vote and not a vote for Sinn Fein policy. If Joe Sherlock is popular with the voters of North Cork, and undoubtedly he is, it is solely because of his strict adherence to every letter of Sinn Fein policy since his election to Mallow Urban District Council in 1967. He is not popular for having gained two All-Ireland medals which was the only qualification Sean Brosnan the Fianna Fail man had to put before the voters, apart from having the backing of the entire Fianna Fail machine.

Sinn Fein is proud of its steady growth of support among urban and rural workers over the past few years. We are also proud of the strength of our organisation and the dedication of our members who on such limited resources and in the midst of such turmoil were able to fight in the space of 20 months, 4 Parliamentary elections, 2 Local Government elections and 2 bye elections. In all of these elections we have put before the people clear and consistent Socialist policies which alone we believe will bring peace and prosperity to the Irish people.

Ni h-e seo an cuspoir ata ag an dream ata in uachtar sa tir seo thuaidh agus theas. Thug an Taoiseach leiriu ar intinn an uas-aicme nuair a labhair se le deanai in Oxford Shasana. Duirt se: "The day of the nation state is gone". Ni leor a ra mar fhreagra ar an raiteas seo gur saolaiodh a dha oir-ead stat naisiunta san Ais agus san Afraic le deich mbliana anuas na mar saolaiodh ar an Mor Roinn o thus an cheid. Na ni leor a ra gur ag iarraidh toin Rialtais Shasana a li ata an Coscarach i mbun na seafoide seo dho. Seard a bhi a ra aige go bhfuil la na gcaipitleach Eireannach imithe agus go gcaithfidh siad anois an margadh is fearr is feidir leo a dheanamh leis an gcaipitleach mor idir-naisiunta in aghaidh lucht oibre na tire lena mbaineann siad. Marach chomh dall-intinneach is ata an Coscarach bheadh an sceal seo ar eolas aige o aimsir Sean Lemass. Bhi se tuigte ag Lemass chomh fada siar le 1958 nuair a h-athraiodh reachtaiocht a leag sios nach bhfeadfadh an teachtrannach smacht a bheith aige ar chomhlacht Eireannach. O shoin i leith sea tharla an tathru mor. Anois ni feidir leis na heachtrannaigh smacht a ndothain a bheith acu ar thionscalaiocht agus as mhaoin na hEireann. Is cuma saoire canach scor bliain a thabhairt do lucht an airgid seo lena dtabhairt that tir isteach no ceadunas ola ar £500. Is de bharr an pholasai seo a chaithfidh muintir na hEireann troid a dheanamh in aghaidh an Rialtas a thogh siad fein - agus is cuma Fianna Fail no Comhrialtas, nil aon difriocht eatorra - le sciar ar bith a fhail da gcuid saidhbreas fein. Don troid sin a chaithfidh a theacht idir gnath-mhuintir na hEireann agus uas-aicme an bhraibhaigh ata an Coscarach ag tagairt agus an chainnt sin ar siul aige. An taon Stat-Naisiuin a d'fheadfadh a theacht in Eirinn feasta a bheadh neamhspleach dairire caithfear gur Stat lucht oibre e: an taon Stait-Naisiun a d'fheadfadh dream an Choscaraigh no Fianna Fail a bheith i gceannas air - aris deirim nach bhfuil aon difriocht eatorra - caithfear gur Stait e ata ag braith ar na monoplachtaid idir-naisiunta e.

An dream a d'iarr neamhspleachas na tire seo ar mhaithe len a gcuid saibhris pearsanta fein, taid sasta anois feidhmiu mar bhainisteoiri don airgead idir-naisiunta. Ta an Eire a shamhail Art O Griofa diolta cheana fein ag an gComhrialtas agus an Rialtas a d'imigh roimhe - diolta ag an gComhrialtas Caipitleach a bhi i gceannas na tire seo le leiththead blian

anuas. Anois ta Eire le diol aris ar chostas na ndaoine ma ligtear leis an gComhrialtas Caipitleach seo e - Fianna Fail agus Fine Gael (fhaid is ata stoilin tri-chos an Lucht Oibre futhu).

Ta tus deanta againn le cur in aghaidh an fhill seo. Ma eirionn linn tabhacht saibhreas na hEireann o thaobh maoin nadurtha de a chur ar shuil-ibh mhuintir na hEireann ta obair fior-thabhachtach deanta againn. Deinimis dlus a chur leis an obair ata deanta go dti seo sa mbliain ata romhainn amach.

crioch.

The following are some of the many messages of solidarity received by Sinn Fein from revolutionary movements and support groups around the world on the event of our 69th Ard Fheis.

IRSK SOLIDARITETSGRUPPE, DENMARK:

"Greetings to the delegates at the 69th Ard Fheis of Sinn Fein. We recognise the Republican Movement as the only force capable of organising the Irish people to defeat Imperialism and lead them forward to a Socialist Republic.

We support you in your struggle for the return of the wealth of Ireland to the people of Ireland.

We send greetings to all political prisoners in British and Irish jails and concentration camps.

We salute the courage of the oppressed working class of the North who have endured and resisted British-designed sectarianism and repression.

We welcome your increased emphasis on the International aspect of the struggle against Imperialism, and we pledge ourselves to continue to play our part in this struggle.

YOUR STRUGGLE - OUR STRUGGLE; INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY."

A.U.E.W. (Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers): Kingston District Committee:

"The Kingston District Committee of the A.U.E.W. Engineering Section sends greetings of solidarity on the occasion of the 69th Ard Fheis of Sinn Fein. We fully support your National Liberation Struggle against British Imperialism. It is time the British Trade Union Movement played a greater part in the struggle to free Ireland from occupation by the British Armed Forces. We pledge to increase our activities in support of your just fight until the whole of Ireland is freed from the Imperialist yoke."

A K E L, PEOPLES' PROGRESSIVE PARTY, CYPRUS:

"Best wishes for your conference. We share and support your struggle and wish it every success."

Solidarity messages to be continued in February EOLAS.

CABHAIR:

The following are the prize winners in the CABHAIR Draw in aid of the Irish Republican Prisoners Defence and Aid Fund held at 30 Gardiner Place, Dublin on the 28th December 1974:

- 1st prize: Mick McKenna, Lemaculla, Ballinode, Co. Monaghan.
- 2nd prize: Phyllis McKenny, Ardee, Co. Louth.
- 3rd prize: Theresa Coffey, Caheroyan, Athenry, Co. Galway.
- 4th prize: Thomas Walsh, 19 Kearny Ave. Kearny, New Jersey.
- 5th prize: J. Devitt. London. England. USA.

The Cabhair Committee wish to thank all those who helped make the draw a great success and look forward to their continued support for the families of Irish Republican prisoners during the coming year.

FIGHTING FUND:

As EOLAS begins its third year of publication, the Republican Movement is reminded of the tremendous response it has received from its readers, along with the ever-increasing number of international ties it has fostered between progressives around the world and the Irish people.

The staff of EOLAS is determined to continue providing you with the facts about the situation in Ireland. We cannot do this without your continued help and support.

In 1974 we set up a FIGHTING FUND in order to enable those of our supporters to help the Republican Movement in a very real and concrete way - by contributing whatever means they could towards the area of propaganda and information. EOLAS is an example of what is needed in order to get the truth about the Irish people's struggle for justice and socialism broadcast throughout the world. The response to publications such as EOLAS is proof that people all over the world want to know. HELP US TELL THEM!

We thank the following people and organisations for contributing to the FIGHTING FUND in late 1974:

James Gray, Maryland, USA, 10.£; Irsk Solidaritetsgruppe, Denmark £7.; Hebert Philippe, France, £4.55; Frank and Delma Houlihan, Phila. USA, 10 \$.; Mary M. Silcox, Texas, USA, 2£; M. Hurley, Australia, £10.; Sean Prendiville, San Francisco, USA, 10.£.; Dr. & Mrs. James J. Gray, Maryland, USA, 10.£.; California Anonymous, 10.£.; J.A. Kane West Australia, £5.; Jennifer St. George, Winsconsin, USA, 5.£.; Michael J. Wells, New Jersey, USA, 25.£.; Peter Pezzoli, England £6.50.

If you support our ideas, support us with cash! Mail your gift to the EOLAS Fighting Fund today!
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All gifts will be personally receipted and will be acknowledged in the next issue of EOLAS.

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