



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The Stormont Assembly — another victim of compromise with terror



Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast

Stormont has been closed — again. The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended at midnight, Monday, 14th October. The action exposes the undemocratic political sham which has been foisted upon the people of Northern Ireland. There was always disquiet about unrepentant terrorists in a power-sharing coalition governing our land.

More than 50% of the unionist people had voted against the “Belfast Agreement”, which was the compromising foundation of the new assembly and executive because it did not insist upon the disarming and disbanding of the IRA.

The activities of the IRA since the setting up of the Stormont Assembly continually caused controversy and unease, even amongst the Ulster Unionist Party members, who seemed able to swallow just about any lie Sinn Fein and the British government tossed at them. But the continual involvement in international terrorism, gun-running, murder and terror on the streets of Northern Ireland eat away at the seemingly endless reserve of subservience of even the most unprincipled Trimble unionist. The arrest of members of Sinn Fein members and their appearance in court on charges of spying brought the matter to a head. David Trimble, the First Minister of the power-sharing Executive, under pressure from the Democratic Unionist Party, led by Dr. Ian Paisley, demanded that the British Government expel the two Sinn Fein members from the Northern Ireland Executive or he would withdraw his members from the executive and so precipitate its collapse. The British government chose to suspend the Stormont executive instead. Thus the citizens of Northern Ireland have once again been deprived of their democratic rights through the British government’s fear of the IRA.



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Spying out the secrets of rivals is part and parcel of life in the political and business world. Businesses wish to profit from the industrial secrets of rivals and political parties wish to embarrass and disadvantage their opposition by obtaining inside information on its policies. Such activities are common place and often are the subjects of media publicity.

However, when Sinn Fein and the IRA spy the motive is more sinister and deadly. For nigh on 100 years, Irish Republicanism has advanced its cause by spying. But it was a spying in order to murder and terrorise.

When a Labour Party member gains some inside information on its rivals in the Conservative Party, or vice versa, the information will be used, at the worst, to shame and politically wrong foot their opponents and hopefully wound them in the eyes of the public. When the IRA spies, it is to obtain information by which they can advance their cause by killing.

Many of the citizens of Northern Ireland have lived, we could say for centuries, with a consciousness of the ever-watching eyes of Republican murderers. Over the last 30 years, being conscious of that was one of the chief means of staying alive for those in the security forces and in public life.

This is not something that the people in the rest of the United Kingdom easily understand. Perhaps it should be noted that on the day the executive collapsed in Northern Ireland, five men appeared in court in Dublin on charges of being members of the IRA. Some of those arrested were Sinn Fein election workers. Their arrest followed the discovery of home-made Irish police uniforms, two-way radios, sledgehammers, balaclavas and gloves in a van during a police raid in Co. Wicklow in the Irish Republic.

So far, four members of Sinn Fein have appeared in court in Belfast on spying charges. Amongst the charges is the handling of documents that could be of use to terrorists. Amongst the documents that had been stolen were personal details of the members of the army and police, including those of Gen. Sir Alistair Irwin, the army commander in Northern Ireland. The Sinn Fein head of administration at Stormont, Denis Donaldson and his son-in-law, Ciaran Kearney, have been charged with the possession of such docu-



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

ments. William Mackessy and Fiona Farrelly have also been charged.

Even documents as sensitive as a transcript of the telephone conversations between Tony Blair and President George Bush have been discovered amongst those stolen by Sinn Fein. Memos from the then Northern Ireland Secretary, John Reid, to army intelligence chiefs were also discovered by the police in its raid on Sinn Fein's Stormont offices and other premises linked to the organisation.

In the wake of the uncovering of the IRA spying operation, both Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness have repeatedly stated that the IRA will not disband. Sadly, all that has come from the British government has been more evidence of its cowardly capitulation to terror and murder.