



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Blair's policy in Ulster — rewards for the wicked when they cease to do evil



Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness — men who gained their political status by virtue of the slaughter of hundreds of innocent people in Northern Ireland.

The present Ulster “peace policy” of the British government is based upon rewarding Sinn Fein/IRA whenever they forsake any feature of their criminal activities. When they ceased to engage openly (I emphasise the word ‘openly’) in a campaign of murder and terror, they were rewarded. The beatings and robberies in which they continue to be involved are assiduously ignored by London, Dublin and Washington. The cries of the victims of what might be called “the IRA’s social terror”, within Roman Catholic and Protestant areas, are drowned out by the high praise which the Blairs, the Aherns, the Bushs of the political world express, in an almost ceaseless chorus. Underlying the latest round of “peace talks” was this same thesis. Democrats in

Northern Ireland must reward the IRA when they destroy their illegal arsenal of guns and bomb-making material by fully accepting them into a power-sharing government and the full implementation of the heretofore utterly rejected “Belfast Agreement”. Tony Blair would have us embrace as our rulers those who, but a day or so ago, were murderous criminals because they were the possessors of illegal armaments and who, for some thirty years, employed those armaments against the innocent and the law-abiding in our society. The thing is so unspeakably wicked that truly words fail anyone who strives to state the case as it is!

Tony Blair claims that the IRA is ready to do a deal. Bertie Ahern, the Irish prime minister, agrees with him. The deal is that unionists accept the undemocratic “Belfast Agreement”, with its cross-border institutions, and also accept Sinn Fein/IRA into a power-sharing government. In return the IRA and their illegal armaments will supposedly disappear. Democracy in Northern Ireland amounts to making those, who testify to their ceasing to be murdering criminals today, government ministers tomorrow!

Media reports

Newspaper reports have indicated that whatever happens to the IRA, it will not cease to be. Under the headline : “Provo old boys will surrender arms but not name”, The Irish Independent’s Security Editor, Tom Brady wrote in its 21st September edition: “The Provisional IRA is being allowed to retain its name after disarmament to prevent the republican mantle being taken over by renegades.

The Irish and British governments fear that Provisional disbandment would create a vacuum that would be filled by one of the main dissident groups and increase the likelihood of violence on the streets again.

Instead it is expected that the IRA will remain as a disciplined organisation which has abandoned its paramilitary and criminal activities but will be allowed to act as an old comrades’ association that could issue statements and hold commemorative events. The belief is that the leadership of such an organisation would prevent disaffected members from returning to violence and would keep the main body of the republican movement united be-



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hind its push for a political rather than a paramilitary solution.

The alternative - total disbandment of the Provisionals - opens up the possibility of large-scale defections to either the Real IRA or the Continuity IRA and the emergence of a new campaign of violence on both sides of the Border and in Britain, funded from quarters that were traditionally loyal to the Provisionals."

How genuine is the IRA's turning away from terror and crime when the only means of stopping them joining another of the many republican terror groups that exist is permitting their criminal organisation, by which they mounted their horrific campaign of terror, to remain intact and declaring it legitimate?

Destroyed

Over the last 30 years of terror we have seen the Ulster Special Constabulary destroyed, its replacement, the Ulster Defence Regiment, likewise destroyed, the Royal Ulster Constabulary undergo numerous re-organisations and then final destruction — all at the behest of the Roman Catholic community and in order to destroy any effective response to IRA terror — and now we are told that the IRA organisation is to remain intact and that upon the flimsy premise that it will stop its members reengaging in terror. That is like allowing the Nazi Party to continue in existence in Germany after the Second World War in order to dissuade Nazis from starting World War III!

Terence O'neill

Unionism has moved far from the days when it castigated power-sharing as an unacceptable and undemocratic form of government. In truth, the policies of Terence O'Neill, who was hounded from office, and quite rightly so, were more conservative than the most conservative of present unionist policies! That surely must say it all.

One indicator of the direction in which things are going is the anger of the ecumenical church leaders that a deal was not signed and sealed at Leeds Castle. The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Ken Newell, said a great opportunity to close down the IRA completely had been missed. By close down, he means elevate them to government status while they remain in existence.

Archbishop Sean Brady of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, said there needed to be a willingness to compromise on both sides. "A lot of people had been praying and hoping that people would get the courage and the heart to go the extra mile on this occasion." That mile is an Irish mile and will take us into a united Ireland. Doubtless that was the prize of which the Primate of the Church of Ireland, Lord Eames spoke. "I just beg the political leaders in the coming weeks not to lose sight of the long picture," he said.

Destination

We would all need to see the "long picture" of just where we are going — a Roman Catholic IRA dominated state.