



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Who brought “foot and mouth” to Ireland?



Sheep carcasses await burning

The blame may be laid upon sheep but in truth it was the “wolves” that freely roam South Armagh that are to blame for the havoc that the “foot and mouth” outbreak is causing in the Irish Republic. They are of the same evil ilk as those that brought so much misery and grief to the Protestant people of Northern Ireland by their murder and terror. Republicans have been identified as being at the centre of the smuggling gangs, whose illegal movement of sheep, infected with foot-and-mouth disease, could yet prove disastrous to the Republic of Ireland's £5b food industry. One marvels at the continued alliance between Tony Blair, the British Government, the Government of the Irish Republic and Gerry Adams, who leads this band of cut-throats.

SDLP Assembly member for South Armagh, John Fee told Ireland on Sunday that former IRA men were masterminding the illegal movement of sheep into the south, which other sources claim has been taking place on a nightly basis for the last two years. “A well organised, well resourced group of individuals, some of whom previously passed through the Republican movement, is at the centre of this smuggling business. He pointed out in his interview that even after a ban on the movement of livestock had been imposed in the South Armagh area, following the confirmation of an outbreak of “foot and mouth,” significant movement of animals continued in the area. He added that the “former Republicans” at the centre of smuggling operations are “criminals who are an embarrassment to Sinn Fein”.

Not alone

He was not alone in his pointing of the finger at the IRA. The following is taken from a leading British newspaper report on the subject. “One route, one route only, brought foot and mouth to Ireland. That same route, in the opposite direction, took the bomb to Canary Wharf five years ago last month. That route lies through South Armagh, the terrorist and smuggling capital of these two islands. The region is effectively unpoliced because the IRA demands freedom from legal interference in its commercial operations, lest it inflict another Canary Wharf on London. The sheep that spread the infection to Ireland were bought illegally in England, taken illegally to a farm in Meigh, in South Armagh, and from there they were shipped illegally to slaughter in different parts of Ireland. This was not a one-off transaction, but part of a huge racket, criminal, complex and extremely sophisticated, and run at one highly profitable remove by the IRA of South Armagh throughout the ceasefire, made all the easier by the complete removal of border security.

Foot and mouth is the IRA's unwitting gift to Ireland. More than that. It is the gift of those who wait for Sinn Fein-IRA, with their vast arsenals of weapons, greased and snug underground, to give their approval to a new police force, as if an organisation which lives half its life outside the law could give that approval. While the peace process superintended the systematic destruction of the RUC, the IRA-sponsored black economy of South Armagh



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continued to prosper, unpoliced by any except those that profited from it. Last month, that black economy imported and distributed specimens of *Picornia viridae* to the broader economy that it has been parasitising for years.”

Pressure

Pressure is growing for an investigation into the alleged organised involvement of meat processing plants in the south with the northern smuggling gangs, and why the Department of Agriculture in the Irish Republic failed to curb the trade. Eddie Punch of the Irish Cattle Traders and Stockowners Association said: “I would compare the attitude of the meat plants in this affair to a dodgy car salesman who pays cash and asks no questions. “The reality is that in the meat processing business, margins are so tight that every corner has to be trimmed.” The northern smuggling gangs make their profits by illegally moving sheep through farms in the south to the factory.

Irish Disinfectant

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Ferns, Brendan Comiskey, has advised his flock to dose their farms liberally with holy water in order to keep away the foot and mouth virus! The Irish Farmers’ Association declined to make any comment on his cure.