



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Raid on home of former IRA Chief of Staff yields 1 million Euros



Gerry Adams - 'defensive of Murphy'

MORE than 1m Euros worth of cash and cheques was found in plastic bags hidden in a cowshed, during the joint operation by gardai and the PSNI at the farm of Thomas "Slab" Murphy last week. Gardai say officers only finished counting the cash and cheques 48 hours after the raid. About 450,000 in sterling and euro notes, and cheques with a value in excess of 600,000 were seized. The offices of two solicitors who had worked for Murphy — the former chief of staff of the Provisional IRA — were also searched during the unprecedented operation.

Senior Gardai say Murphy was on the premises when police converged from both sides of the border. Possibly having received a last-minute warning, he managed to disappear in only three minutes.

"Our information is that he was in the house. He had received no tip-off that we were coming and we believe he was sitting eating his breakfast," said a senior officer. "The fry was half-eaten, the tea was poured and the seat was warm. But he was gone." He would have had about three minutes as we made our way up to the house. Within that time he disappeared. We believe he has a bunker on the farm and may have hid out in it. We turned the place upside down but we couldn't find it."

Fifteen properties in total were raided. In the republic, warrants were obtained to search nine premises under the Criminal Assets Bureau Act. About 400 officers of the PSNI, Gardai, British Army, Revenue Commissioners and officials were involved.

In response to the newspaper reports of the raid on Murphy's home, Gerry Adams said: "Tom Murphy is not a criminal. He is a good republican." The businessman, whose farm is at the centre of a police probe into a multi-million pound smuggling operation, has been wrongly demonised, he claimed.

Yeah! Everybody knows that all Irish farmers keep 1m Euros in plastic bags lying around the byre. There may be money in muck but that is ridiculous!!!!!!