



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Criminal empire of Gerry Adams' friend laid bare



Thomas 'Slab'  
Murphy

The IRA's multi-million-pound border crime empire has been laid bare - in handwritten ledgers seized from the home of top Provo Thomas 'Slab' Murphy. The discovery is likely to cause embarrassment to his friend Gerry Adams who earlier this year claimed Murphy was "not a criminal". Such an assessment can come only from someone who is well acquainted with Murphy or who has an interest in defending his "integrity".

To seek to maintain the illusion that Murphy is a bona fide businessman is necessary for Adams, since the whole nest of Sinn Fein/IRA will fall with Murphy, given his high-ranking position within the organisation, including that of 'Chief of Staff' of the IRA.

It is understood that the records seized by a joint PSNI-Garda raid, earlier this year on Murphy's farm, contain precise details of massive smuggling and counterfeit operations. The records pinpoint how the IRA sold millions of pounds of illegal goods to members and criminals for distribution.

Officers from the Irish Criminal Assets Bureau can hardly believe their good fortune at finding the meticulously kept ledgers, which give the clearest insight ever into the Provos' on-going racketeering empire.

One source stated: "It is an old-fashioned book-keeping method that may reflect the age or the generation of the person who maintained it. But it is immaculate and is very easy to follow. In simple terms, purchases or smuggled goods of one type are colour-coded and they turn up in the same colour code when they are sold on at a profit.

Diesel has one colour code, petrol another and cigarettes another. These are immaculately maintained records which will enable the Criminal Assets Bureau to levy a tax bill of maybe £5m against Murphy.

The records clearly indicate the cost of goods brought into the IRA's 'stores' and the price received for the contraband goods, when they were offloaded on both sides of the border. They reveal how the goods came into the IRA's possession and were then sold on to its members and criminals for distribution.

The majority of the transactions show smuggled fuel being ferried from the Republic into the IRA's control at Murphy's farm in Ballybinaby, which straddles the Armagh/Louth border.

identity established

Because they're handwritten and not formulated on a computer, handwriting experts may be able to pinpoint the identity of the person who maintained the records, and tie them into the IRA's crime operations.

That could lead to a membership charge or a more serious terrorist charge being brought by the Garda.

back-fire!

In a stout defence of Murphy after the raids, Adams described him as "not a criminal" and went on to say he was "a key supporter of the Sinn Fein peace strategy". But that praise for Murphy could backfire on Adams when the matter comes to the High Court in Dublin with a demand for £millions from him in unpaid taxes, and there is a laying bare of the



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criminal, financial empire Murphy has controlled for the IRA for over two decades.  
skills

With the prospect of Sinn Fein/IRA being in government soon here in Northern Ireland, maybe Murphy's book-keeping skills will qualify him for a position in the Ministry of Finance!!