



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Tide turns against Sinn Fein



**Ahern and Blair - peace plans in awry!**

**The fall-out from the arrests in the Republic of Ireland, made by the Garda of those suspected of money-laundering, has been catastrophic for the republican movement. Voices have been raised in condemnation from quarters long considered “friendly” toward Sinn Fein/IRA. This “dawn of enlightenment” is to be welcomed, but even criticisms of the murderous terror organisation are not all that they at first appear to be.**

The cracks in the Republican’s response to allegations of IRA involvement in the Northern Bank robbery were first seen with Gerry Adams’ reply to an interviewer in Spain that he “might be wrong” in his belief the IRA was not involved in a £26.5m Northern Bank robbery in Belfast.

When he came home from Spain early, he told press that he had been misunderstood and that he still believed that the IRA had nothing to do with the crime. However, the number of politicians ready to condemn the IRA has been growing. The London and Dublin premiers and other ministers in both governments have condemned the IRA for the robbery. The Independent Monitoring Commission’s report on the £26.5m raid has also blamed the IRA.

Mr. Bertie Ahern said that he believed Garda intelligence which blamed the IRA for the raid. Irish Justice Minister Michael McDowell also said Garda intelligence firmly backs Chief Constable Hugh Orde’s assessment that the IRA was behind the £26m robbery. He reinforced the allegation that Sinn Fein wanted withdrawn, saying Garda intelligence indicated that the republican leadership would have been aware of the robbery in advance. list The Irish Ministers have hit Sinn Fein with a list of crimes they have pinned on the IRA, including the resumption of punishment shootings in Belfast after the collapse of the peace talks. Bertie Ahern added, “There must be absolute clarity. We cannot continue with criminality being the order of the day, whether that be the Northern Bank robbery or anything else.” The stance of the Irish government involves claiming that Sinn Fein and the IRA are led by the same men.

Mr. McDowell said in a radio interview: “We’re talking about a small group of people, including a number of elected representatives, who run the whole movement.” “We’re talking about Martin McGuinness, Gerry Adams, Martin Ferris and others.” Mr Ferris, who served a lengthy prison sentence for gun-running, is a member of the Irish Parliament.

However, despite these strong statements, Bertie Ahern has said that, although the republican movement is suspected of being involved in the money laundering operation, Sinn Fein would not be excluded from the Northern Ireland peace process. Speaking to reporters, he said: “We had 30 years of exclusion in Northern Ireland and all we ended up with was thousands of people killed and maimed.” Asked if he felt justified in blaming the Northern Bank robbery on the IRA with prior Sinn Fein knowledge, Mr Ahern said: “I wouldn’t have said what I said if I hadn’t been given the advice I was given.”



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Of course this is a ludicrous political position to adopt but in Irish politics it is the norm. Despite being ready to condemn the criminality of the republican movement, the Dublin government is so driven by an over-ruling desire to bring about the destruction of Northern Ireland that it uses and assists that organisation of criminals to destroy our British heritage. What the Dublin and London Governments are saying about Sinn Fein/IRA they have always known, but were willing to ignore and use them for their own ends — the breaking of the unionist people of Northern Ireland. However, £26 million was just a little bit too much for Blair and Ahern & Co to swallow and now they deem it necessary to seek to rein in their monster!! In response to the accusations levelled against them, Adams and McGuinness have denied involvement in the IRA leadership. There is simply no one who believes their denial. The readiness to lie was demonstrated by Martin McGuinness when he was asked if he knew Tom Hanlon, a republican activist who has been questioned by police, investigating a huge IRA money-laundering scam. McGuinness adamantly denied he ever met the man. Newsreel footage has been transmitted showing the two men chatting during a 2002 election count, when Mr Hanlon stood for the Irish Parliament.

Lies, theft and murder are common bed-fellows!

Lies and ambiguity are second nature to the Roman Catholic community. Archbishop Sean Brady, the head of the Roman Catholic church in Ireland, was questioned about the claim by Mitchell McLaughlin, chairman of Sinn Fein, that the killing of Mrs. Jean McConville in 1972 was “wrong” but he did not regard it as a crime. He was asked if he considered her killing to be murder. The Archbishop refused to give a straight answer and instead suggested that the reporter should ask a policeman!

Such chicanery is typical of the use of lies that appears acceptable to most Roman Catholics. It is in the light of all this that the rhetoric on the part of London and Dublin and the po-faced denials of Adams and McGuinness must be judged.