



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The murderer's grip on the throat of Ulster



Martin Smyth MP

Nothing demonstrates the evil consequences of the policy of appeasing terrorists, the “acceptable level of violence” philosophy spelled out by Conservative Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling in 1971, than figures recently publicised by Rev. Martin Smyth and the findings of a first report by the International Monitoring Commission, established to monitor the “cease-fire”. Since Maudling’s statement in 1971, it has been the clear policy of successive British governments merely to “contain” terrorism rather than defeat it and eradicate the terrorist. Eradication as a policy may be acceptable for the British government in Afghanistan or Iraq but not when dealing with Irish Republicanism.

Mr. Smyth highlights the fact that republican and loyalist paramilitary groups amass some £125 million each year from “racketeering and extortion”. It is the British government’s policy of being prepared to “live” with a certain level of IRA terrorism, that permits this scandalous situation to continue.

If the criminal activity were limited to the loyalist groups alone, they would be crushed relentlessly by the security forces. However, since crushing the IRA is not an acceptable option to the republican community nor to the Roman Catholic church, the loyalist criminals are permitted to engage in their crimes alongside the republicans, since to smash one element of the criminal activities without the other would be very difficult to explain to the world.

The IMC has found Sinn Fein accountable for the activities of the IRA, its alter ego, and has levied a fine against it in consequence. The fine will include the loss of £120,000 in Northern Ireland Assembly allowances. The Progressive Unionist Party, which has links with the loyalist paramilitary group, the Ulster Volunteer Force, will lose about £18,000 in allowances. These punishments clearly indicate that the IMC believes that Sinn Fein and the IRA and the other political groups and their “armies”, are one. This is something that British governments have been reluctant to admit, for it would mean that they have maintained ongoing political links and dealings with terrorist organisations.

As it is, the moral implications of the findings of the IMC will be lost on the British government, unless our Unionist representatives make a better effort in pressing the issue than they have in the past. If they don’t, the issue will sink into oblivion with all the rest of yesterday’s news and our corrupt government will be allowed off the hook once again.