

NATIONAL IRISH FREEDOM COMMITTEE

Cumann na Saoirse Naisiunta

EIRE NUA - A NEW BEGINNING

OBSTACLES TO EIRE NUA IN AMERICA

Since 1974, the U.S. government has denied visas to Republican Sinn Fein (RSF) representatives to enter the United States to promote the Eire Nua (New Ireland) program.

Up to now, the U.S. government has acquiesced to British pressure by summarily denying entry visas to Eire Nua spokespersons including Ruairi O'Bradaigh, the President of RSF. The British consider O'Bradaigh and the other targeted individuals to be effective spokespersons for the Eire Nua program and if granted access to the U. S would pose a serious threat to their own unopposed public relations campaign in the U.S., which seeks to legitimize British occupation of six of Irelands' thirty-two counties.



Ruairi O'Bradaigh

In 1978, the leaders of Irish organizations in New Jersey petitioned Peter Rodino, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to investigate the denial of visas to members of the Republican movement. The inquiry, which was led by Joshua Eilberg (D. PA) and Hamilton Fish (R.NY), took place in Ireland and England in September 1978 concluded, "that all those who applied for visas should be allowed into the United States and none excluded".

This damaging U.S. policy is a serious setback to the promotion of the Eire Nua program in the United States. It deprives Irish-Americans and the American public at large of an opportunity to evaluate and compare competing schools of thought, and more importantly, it denies U.S. citizens their constitutional right to free speech.

For more information on how you can participate in the promotion on the Eire Nua program and the Visa Denial Repeal campaign contact the NIFC national office at the address shown below.

National Irish Freedom Committee, P.O. Box 771084, Woodside, NY 11377

www.Irishfreedom.net

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WHAT IS EIRE NUA

Eire Nua (New Ireland) is a comprehensive Irish proposal for a just and lasting peace in Ireland in the context of a British withdrawal. Initially proposed by Republican Sinn Fein in 1972, the Eire Nua program provides for a new all-Ireland constitution incorporating provisions for a Bill of Rights, New Government Structures, Separation of Church and State and an Independent Judiciary. It also sets forth specific conditions to start the process of Irish reunification and reconciliation which include **1) a British declaration of intent to withdraw from Ireland, 2) the convening of a constitutional convention to draft a new all-Ireland constitution, and 3) a British withdrawal and the unconditional release of all political prisoners.**

The principle on which Eire Nua is based envisions a system of government in which all creeds and traditions would be represented and all citizens could exercise real power, without any one group infringing on the right of others.

The NIFC consider *Eire Nua* to be innovative and far-reaching and believes it to be a positive approach that recognizes the rights of all Irish people, irrespective of their ancestry or religious affiliations. For this reason the NIFC will promote Eire Nua in the U.S. as the most logical choice to achieve a just and lasting peace for Ireland. We believe that Eire Nua is based on sound and honorable principles that incorporate fair and realistic plans to achieve national unity within the framework of a 32-county Federal Irish Republic. It must be obvious to all, even those with vested interest in the status quo, that sooner or later Ireland will be reunited. For too long the welfare and interests of the Irish people on both sides of the border have been subjugated for the careers and enrichment of well-connected families and individual politicians.



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THE PATH TO IRISH UNITY

Achieving reunification of the Irish nation requires an acceptance by the British government that their ongoing presence in the six occupied counties of northeast Ireland is counter-productive and an impediment to peace. They must also accept that withdrawing from the occupied six counties would not necessarily precipitate the breakup of the union of England, Scotland, Wales and the six counties, unless they believe that union is weak. If this is the case it will unravel sooner or later, with or without the occupied counties.

The Dublin government, for its part, must accept that Irish unity is a national imperative and that the new system that will emerge after reunification will not resemble the present one. A peaceful reunification will require devolution of power to the provincial parliaments of Ulster, Leinster, Munster and Connacht. In essence, the national government would be responsible for national level affairs and the provincial governments would be responsible for provincial affairs.

After both governments comes to terms with these realities a peaceful transition to Irish reunification can be achieved by following process outlined below.

The first step in this process would be a British Declaration of Intent to withdraw from the occupied six counties after the Irish people have adopted a new constitution. This would be followed by the cessation of all hostilities.

The second step in this process would be the convening of a Constituent Assembly for the purpose of drafting a new all-Ireland constitution. The new constitution would include a Bill of Rights, separation of Church and State, New Government Structures, and an Independent Judiciary.

The third step in this process would be a British withdrawal and the unconditional release of all political prisoners. Sentences of individuals imprisoned for sectarian killings would be subject to judicial review to ensure that the sentencing court was duly constituted, and / or followed internationally accepted standards with respect to judicial rulings and rules of evidence.

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FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The first fundamental principle; the Charter of Rights, would clearly define the rights and privileges to be accorded to each and every individual. These rights and privileges would include human rights, civil rights, political rights, free speech rights, equal rights, workers rights and traditional rights. It would prohibit the government from granting unto itself special powers that could be used to violate or circumvent any of these rights.

The second fundamental principle; New Governments Structures, would embody a system of power sharing administered at the national, provincial, county / district government levels. This system would ensure the maximum distribution of government powers and would accommodate the unique and distinctive character of each of the historic provinces. In addition, it would grant autonomy to each of the provinces to pursue interests for which they have a natural affinity including cultural, traditional and economic interests

The third fundamental principle; the separation of Church and State, would guarantee the various religious denominations the freedom to attend to the spiritual needs of their adherents. By the same token, the government would not be in the business of legislating morality. Instead, it would cater to the temporal needs of all its citizens including believers and non-believers alike who make up the entire population.

The fourth fundamental principle; an Independent Judiciary, would ensure that the nations' Supreme Court, as guardian of the constitution, would have equal status to the legislative and executive branches of government. The judicial power of the nation would be vested in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court would be the final interpreter of the meaning of the constitution, and as such, would exercise the power of judicial review to ensure that legislation and/or the exercise of executive powers would not violate the constitution. As head of an independent judiciary, the Court would be the ultimate tribunal in the nations court system. Within the framework of litigation, the Court would mark the boundaries of authority between the national, provincial and local levels of government, and between the government and the citizen.