

Speech delivered in 2013 by Sinn Féin Poblachtach member Seán Ó Dubhláin.

International Affairs & Foreign Policy

It is important for Republican Sinn Fein as a progressive revolutionary organisation and as an organisation with strong international connections to have a clear policy regarding the international outlook we would bring to a New Ireland. An independent foreign policy is of utmost importance for Ireland and for us.

Because of Ireland's history as an oppressed nation, for centuries suffering the curse of colonialism, Irish republicanism in the tradition of Tone has always been an outward and progressive movement identifying with the anti-imperialist struggle around world. At home we strive to bring about a real people based democracy in line with the Federalism of Éire Nua and Socialist and Republican ideals, these complimentary tenants of our struggle in turn will lead to the revolutionary social change necessary to expel the writ of class domination.

The Ireland we live in today is one dictated by alien concepts to that of the traditional Irish culture, the Irish people have lost their way, and Ireland has lost its way. One of the primary reasons for this has been the loss of our language to a large section of the population and its neglect by the partition State's. One of the great tragedies in Irish society is the non-participation of the people within the political framework that decides the decision making; this isolates the people and has compounded the centralisation of power around the pro-imperial elements. On issues such as Irish Sovereignty and Neutrality and controlling one's own foreign policy, the Irish people have been set aside, our history as an oppressed nation has been forgotten about and neglected and we have in the majority become numb to the suffering of the oppressed of other lands. Even the clothes many of us wear are made in sweat shops half the world away, but within a society driven to meet cheap materialistic ends many people hardly care at all about sad facts like this, the State sponsored break in the connection with our own history has instilled within the Irish people the same imperial outlook as has been present within England and other dominant nations for centuries.

Within the Irish education system our history is not thought in a way that inspires the students to have a bond to the nation of their birth. Indeed for a large section of Irish youth they are not thought anything whatsoever about their history, land and culture. Many of us here today would have been brought up to respect and remember the memory of those who went before us, those who died to break the chains of exploitation, of slavery of imperialism and colonial dominance. But for many outside this forum, for many throughout the villages, towns and cities of Ireland the only culture they grow up with is that of mass media, which serves an agenda of rampant globalisation, which has proven to be a rotten world system of capitalism, war and exploitation. This we term as international imperialism.

The author Alexei Kondratiev said many years ago in a publication which always stuck in my mind that, ***"Wherever television becomes implanted, local cultures vanish, as though dissolved by strong acid. In their place the guiding images of Anglo-American mercantile capitalism establish themselves. There are some who welcome this emergence, through television, of a 'world culture'. But folklore of shared commercial slogans is not enough to make a viable civilisation: there must be for necessary growth to occur, a powerfully motivated, life-affirming rationale for action that focuses on the real world in all its complexity, not on a shallow, fantasised world of entertainment."***

Indeed the invention of mass media has been a massive tool in the arsenal of the imperialist in an attempt to undermine independent thought and independent Peoples. But it has served another purpose too and that is clear to be seen even here this weekend, it has connected those throughout the world who class themselves as anti-imperialist, who believe in the utmost importance of protecting and cherishing the native culture and separate, unique identities of minorities and downtrodden People the world over. As internationalists in the anti-colonial/imperial sense we wish to see a world, yes fully interconnected, not cut off and certainly not isolationist but a world where as James Connolly believed ***“The internationalism of the future will be based upon the free federation of free peoples and cannot be realised through the subjugation of the smaller by the larger political unit.”*** The fight Sinn Féin Poblachtach has undertaken and the common fight of anti-imperialists everywhere therefore is a fight for the national liberation and the international liberation of human kind.

In the ‘*International Affairs*’ section of the ‘*Seven Signatories Manifesto*’, Sinn Féin Poblachtach has set out where it stands in the international fight for freedom, justice and equality.

We have advocated the creation of a Celtic League. The cultural, linguistic and spiritual connection between the Celtic Peoples is of paramount importance to protecting, sustaining and developing independence within and between our nations. While developing its international policy Sinn Féin Poblachtach came to describe Ireland as standing in the centre of three concentric circles: The first to be a Celtic League, on the lines of the Nordic Council or the Arab League, which would include all Celtic countries; the second, “a free federation of free peoples in Europe”, as James Connolly emphatically described it and would see the protection of nationalities in the periphery of Europe and would be linked to the wider struggle for the maintenance and development and betterment of workers’ rights. The third dimension was the Global dimension.

There are two opposing sides in this global war for hearts and minds. The imperialist versus the anti-imperialist. The imperialist can be classed as he who wants a New World Order based on bullying and bribery, on domination, occupation and control where all the people of the world will bow to one authority. We have witnessed the EU become in its own right a major player on the world stage and this has in due course subverted Irish neutrality and sovereignty, Sinn Féin Poblachtach advocates a break from the EU Superstate and the reintroduction of an Irish currency, Irish neutrality and sovereignty.

The pro-imperial 26-County Government has consistently bent the knee to the imperial powers. Between 2007 and 2011, 6955 applications were made to the 26-County Administration asking for permission to carry munitions of war through Ireland or Irish Airspace. 6819 permits were granted and only 136 were rejected. By the gullible lackeys in Leinster House the Irish people have been made a complicity in unjustifiable wars waged by the United States and NATO.

On June 10, the European Commission, presented Plan “B” to speed up the implementation process of, Single European Sky (SES). This EU regulator of European airspace will erode national boundaries and create a single EU airspace, this will also integrate civil and military air traffic management. There was zero consultation with the People on these measures, against representative democracy at its finest.

In the Western media it is often quite ironic that the so-called great upholders of liberty and democracy are those who maintain the internationalist imperial paradigm and it is quite ironic that these same imperial nations spearheaded by the United States, Britain and the

EU/NATO alliance would have you believe that nations who oppose foreign domination are if you like pariah states.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran as one example is portrayed in the Western media as some kind of mad dictator where as in fact he has proven to be a virtuous leader during a testing time for Iran. It was Mahmoud who declared ***“a New World Order needs to emerge, but one away from the American bullying and domination God willing, a new order will come together and we'll do away with everything that distances us Bulling must come to an end. Occupation must come to an end.”*** We would agree with these sentiments in the same light as James Connolly that ***“...the socialist of another country is a fellow patriot, as the capitalist of my own country is a natural enemy.”***

The late Hugo Chavez, much villified in the western media and whose death recieved barely any coverage in Ireland declared ***“we must confront the privileged elite who have destroyed a large part of the world.” “I am convinced that the path to a new, better and possible world is not capitalism, the path is socialism.”***

We too are convinced and we shall continue to be convinced until our dying day. Sinn Féin Poblachtach are internationalists committed to building a world community of free nations, but where primary focus is placed on respect and the right of small nations to be free. Where renewable energy and sustainability is a primary focus to find a happier existence for all who share the earth. We seek the re-establishment our Republic of all-Ireland based on the federal proposals of Éire Nua for a participatory democracy, we believe then that our Republic would truly be a beacon light to the oppressed of every land and within Éire Nua there is a blueprint that can and we hope would be applied in many countries ridden by conflict.

Comrades, I thank you for your time.

An Phoblacht Abú