

The 1980 Ard Fheis will be held in Liberty Hall, Dublin on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 7, 8 and 9.

For many years we have debated the possibility of a social evening which would enable delegates, visitors and friends to meet. This year a function has been organised for the Saturday night, March 8. It is scheduled to take place in the Crofton Airport Hotel, Swords Road, Dublin.

Dinner and dance will cost approximately £5 per person and branches are asked now to begin both collecting deposits to ensure the maximum attendance.

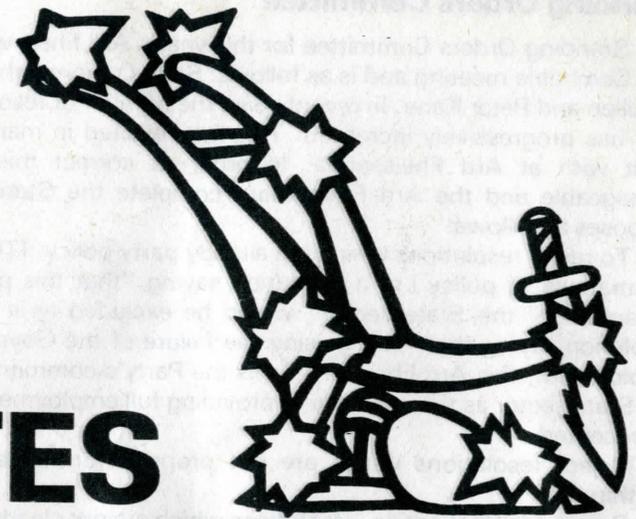
There will be a special guest speaker.

Details and bookings to Gerry Doherty, c/o Head Office.

Note: In previous years many delegates and visitors had difficulty in securing suitable accommodation during the period of the Ard Fheis. In order to avoid such problems the Party has managed to book 100 rooms for bed and breakfast at the Crofton Hotel, the location of the dinner dance.

Those desiring to take advantage of these bookings are asked to note that beds will be allocated strictly in terms of first come first served.

As a special concession Dinner Dance, Bed and Breakfast can be booked now at the cost of £14 per person.



JANUARY 1980

NOTES & COMMENTS

INTERNAL NEWSLETTER

OF SINN FÉIN THE WORKERS' PARTY

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Standing Orders Committee

The Standing Orders Committee for this year's Ard Fheis was appointed at the last Ard Comhairle meeting and is as follows: Sean O Cionnaith, Des O Hagan, Eamonn Smullen and Peter Kane. In recent years the number of resolutions appearing on the Clar has progressively increased. This has resulted in many resolutions not being dealt with at Ard Fheiseanna. In order to correct this, make the Clar more manageable and the Ard Fheis more complete the Standing Orders Committee proposes as follows:

1. To reject resolutions which are already party policy. (This would not include re-affirmations of policy i.e. a resolution saying "that this party should support the expansion of the State sector" would be excluded as it is already policy, but a resolution saying that "recognising the failure of the Government to deal with unemployment, this Ard Fheis re-affirms the Party's commitment to the expansion of the State sector as the only way of providing full employment in the country" would be accepted.
2. Reject resolutions which are not properly formulated (i.e. do not propose anything).
3. Return for clarification, resolutions which are not clearly expressed.
4. Split resolutions which cover more than one topic.

Produce, in consultation with Cumann involved, composites of any two or more resolutions.

The above are in line with the recommendations made by the committee appointed to examine the running of Ard Fheiseanna.

It is intended to hold a function on the Saturday night of the Ard Fheis instead of the usual Ard Fheis session and details of this will be sent to areas well in advance.

Conference for Press Officers

The PRO Mick Ryan has issued a circular to all PRO's calling a one-day Conference for PRO's in Dublin on January 26th. It is important that all Cumann and Comhairle Ceanntair ensure that their PRO is present. The last part of the circular deals with letters to the press and we quote:

"Finally there have been cases in the recent past where PRO's have written letters to the national dailies on matters and issues which are more the concern of the national office than local PRO's, and despite the fact that the letters in question dealt very ably and effectively with the particular question under discussion, we want to remind all PRO's that they must NOT seek publication on behalf of the Party of a letter or statement which deals with national issues which are in the main the domain of and responsibility of central office, without first seeking the permission of the national PRO or other responsible officer at Head Office. Fortunately the few lapses of this rule in recent times have been productive and useful; but this has not always been the case; so consult first before publication.

Any member can of course write to the papers or be interviewed by the media on questions of national importance as a private person — that is to say not declaring membership of the Party and thus making the Party responsible for a statement which may not be an accurate reflection of Party policy. It stands to reason of course that certain members of our Party around the country have been given a

certain amount of latitude regarding this matter of public statements and letters.

It is also to be understood that local PRO's and duly appointed spokespersons may make statements on local issues as the need arises and whenever opportune, without the need to consult with Head Office provided that Party policy is adhered to at all times.

Women's Seminar

The N.W.C. Seminar held in November was both informative and enjoyable and the attendance, though moderate, was fairly representative (and not totally female).

Ten Years of the Women's Movement, a paper presented by Theresa Moriarity, drew some thought-provoking comparisons between the Women's Movement in Ireland, Britain and on the Continent and emphasised the value to the Left of active involvement in the women's rights area.

We were fortunate in having two excellent Guest Speakers. Dave Ellis, from Coolock Community Law Centre spoke on *Family Law Reform*, particularly the need for humane divorce legislation. Speaking on *Single Parents in Irish Society*, Anna Lee singled out the Social Welfare Code as glaringly inadequate. Accommodation was also a serious problem as was the lack of day-care provision at a reasonable rate.

Other topics discussed were *Women at Home*, (Councillor Liz McManus), *The Politics of Childcare* (Mary MacMahon) and *Women and Socialism* (Triona Dooney). We had a very tight schedule but by providing refreshments were able to save some time and cover all the topics.

We'll be holding another Seminar early in the New Year so look out for details.

Nuclear Energy

Two years ago our Party produced a leaflet on the proposal to build a nuclear power station at Carnsore Point. We opposed that particular proposal to build an American Light Water Reactor because uranium costs were rapidly increasing and such a station would not guarantee supplies of cheap electricity.

That leaflet also dealt with the need for this country to develop the various alternative sources of energy available to us (coal, oil and turf), in order to ensure that our future energy requirements could be met cheaply and as safely as possible.

The question of cheap sources of energy is being debated all over the world. It is recognised by all serious people that fossil fuels will run out at some time in the next century and that it is vital to find new sources of cheap energy if civilisation is to continue to make progress.

The energy debate in Ireland up to now, far from enlightening the public on nuclear energy, has tended to confuse. There is much misunderstanding of both the nature of nuclear power and its development as a safe, clean and cheap method of providing future energy needs, and of overestimating or ignoring the rapidly diminishing supplies of the world's alternative energy sources.

One of our key demands as a Party has been for the Government to clearly state its intention in the energy field. We welcomed the Government's decision to hold a

public enquiry into the question of nuclear power. But this enquiry must be approached intelligently and conducted in a rational and unemotional atmosphere.

As a Party, over the past years we have campaigned strongly for industrialisation. In our major document, *The Irish Industrial Revolution*, we detailed how this can be achieved. To carry through such a policy as we envisage on industrialisation, massive amounts of electricity will be required. It is crucial therefore that our energy needs be assessed on the basis of a constant supply of large amounts of cheap electricity.

Our latest pamphlet, *Nuclear Power & Ireland*, gives much-needed information to all those people anxious to take part in the energy debate.

The Trade Union Movement is at present seeking information and submissions from its affiliated unions on nuclear power. Our Party will be one of the first to provide such information. It is in this light that one must view our latest pamphlet disseminating information on a major issue. It does not set out to give the last word on this subject; it seeks to give working people in ordinary, everyday language some idea of what nuclear power is about.

It is important to remember that in our leaflet of two years ago whilst opposing the then proposed nuclear power station, we were not opposing nuclear power. Many countries want nuclear power, particularly so-called "Third World countries", who actually accuse the advanced countries of withholding the technology which is necessary for their advancement.

At a meeting in Vienna last year which was organised by "International Liaison Forum of Peace Forces" in co-operation with the Austrian Co-ordinating Committee for Peace Work, and in consultation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the following statement was made:

"The opposition to the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes is being expressed particularly forcefully in certain developed countries. It is a fact that you will not encounter in the developing countries any responsible section of public opinion suggesting that nuclear energy is a luxury which the world can do without. We in the developing countries need nuclear energy for solving our urgent problems, and we resent the efforts being made sometimes to prevent us from making use of this energy."

The conference of over 100 Non-aligned countries held in Havana, Cuba, September this year, 1979, passed resolutions calling for the speedy development of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Extract:

"Recalling the resolution of the Fifth Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, the decisions taken at subsequent ministerial meetings and the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Conference stressed the exceptional importance of international co-operation among the non-aligned and other developing countries in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy. This co-operation is of special significance in fields where these countries can achieve a greater degree of self-sufficiency.

The Conference affirmed the inalienable right of all States to apply and develop their programmes for peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development in conformity with their priorities, interests, and needs. It deplored the pressures and threats against developing countries aimed at preventing them from pursuing their programmes for the

development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

All States should have unhindered access to and be free to acquire technology, equipment and materials on a non-discriminatory basis for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, taking into account the particular needs of the developing countries.

It expressed its concern in this respect, regarding the obstacles which the developed countries place in the way of transfers of technologies related to the peaceful uses of atomic energy by fixing financial and other conditions which are incompatible to the national sovereignty of developing countries and the criteria of financial viability.

Each country's choices and decisions in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing the respective fuel cycle policies or international co-operation, agreements and contracts for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Conference stressed the need for observance of principles of non-discrimination and free access to nuclear technology and reaffirmed the right of each country to develop programmes for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with their own freely determined priorities and needs.

Concern for non-proliferation should not be used as a pretext to prevent States from exercising the right to acquire and develop peaceful nuclear technology. The Conference expressed its concern at the monopolistic policies of nuclear supplier countries restricting and limiting the transfer of technology and imposing conditions which are incompatible with the sovereignty and independence of the developing countries. It called for full observance of the principles mentioned above, for the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, which have been endorsed unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly."

The General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted by consensus during the 1977/1978 Session the following resolutions, and we quote:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the General Assembly for the year 1976,

Recognising the need to strengthen the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the promotion of the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and to augment its resources for technical assistance to the developing countries in this field,

Bearing in mind the need to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Having in mind the significance of nuclear energy for economic development and, in particular, its important role in accelerating the development of developing countries,

Convinced that transfer of technology for the peaceful use of nuclear energy for development can greatly contribute to progress in general,

Taking into consideration the legitimate right of States to develop or acquire technology for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in order to accelerate their economic development,

Affirming the responsibility of States that are advanced in the nuclear field to promote the legitimate nuclear energy needs of the developing countries by participating in the fullest possible transfer of nuclear equipment, materials and technology under agreed and appropriate international safeguards applied, through the International Atomic Energy Agency on a non-discriminatory basis in order to prevent effectively proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Recalling the obligation assumed under international agreements and contracts by a number of such States to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Convinced that the objectives of the full utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons can be promoted by the establishment of universally acceptable principles for international co-operation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

1. Declares that:

(a) The use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is of great importance for the economic and social development of many countries;

(b) All States have the right, in accordance with the principle of sovereign equality, to develop their programme for the peaceful use of nuclear technology for economic and social development, in conformity with their priorities, interests and needs;

(c) All States, without discrimination, should have access to and should be free to acquire technology, equipment and materials for the peaceful use of nuclear energy;

(d) International co-operation in the field covered by the present resolution should be under agreed and appropriate international safeguards applied through the International Atomic Energy Agency on a non-discriminatory basis in order to prevent effectively proliferation of nuclear weapons;

2. Invites all States as well as the international organizations concerned to respect and observe the principles set forth in the present resolution;

3. Requests States to strengthen the existing programmes of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the developing countries, the acquisition of installations, equipment and nuclear materials and information as well as the training of personnel in the peaceful use of nuclear energy;

4. Invites all States to consider convening, at an appropriate stage, an international conference or conferences, under the auspices of the United Nations system, aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with the objectives of the present resolution;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to invite all States to communicate to him their views, observations and suggestions on such a conference and requests him to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

The General Assembly.

Having considered the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency to the General Assembly for the year 1977,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/50 of 8 December 1977,

Recognising the importance of enhancing the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the promotion of the application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and of augmenting its resources for technical assistance to the developing countries in this field,

Having in mind the significance of nuclear energy for economic development and, in particular, its important role in accelerating the development of developing countries,

Recalling the principles and provisions of its resolution 32/50 concerning international co-operation for the promotion of the transfer and utilization of nuclear technology for economic and social development, especially in the developing countries,

Recalling also the contents of the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,

1. Invites all States to continue to consider the convening, at an appropriate stage, of an international conference or conferences, under the auspices of the United Nations system, aimed at promoting international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with the objectives of General Assembly resolution 32/50;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to urge all States to communicate to him their views, observations and suggestions on such a conference and requests him to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

A detailed article on nuclear energy from a socialist perspective will be published in the Spring issue of *Teoiric*, the Party's theoretical journal. This issue of *Teoiric* will be on sale at the beginning of February.

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